

An important step forward
China removes homosexuality
from its list of mental illnesses.
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STDs and HIV are not a good mix
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Males of the species
'Boys to Men,' four
short films at the Castro.
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BAY AREA REPORTER

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And the nominees are ...

Vote next weekend for
Pride Parade grand marshal
by Katie Szymanski

Say what you will about LGBT politics in a city so progressive that queers tend to get lost in smaller factions. When it's Pride time, it's our time, and no special interest or silly squabble can overshadow the big gay holiday that brings all of us under the same umbrella.

Same goes for our heroes; whether or not we know them personally or are involved in the same activities they are, they represent the best of us, working to improve LGBT lives in ways that are beneficial to everyone.

There are 16 nominees in the individual category for grand marshal of this year's San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade, to be held Sunday, June 24. This year's nominees represent incredibly diverse backgrounds and identities; there are a record number of transgender nominees, a handful of people active in the leather community, a couple of religious leaders, and numerous HIV/AIDS activists, to name a few characteristics of the many people to choose from.

Grand marshal nominees are chosen by the public, and ballots will be available next week in local LGBT publications, on the SF Pride Web site, and at the Pride office. Voters do not need to be residents of San Francisco, since "people come from all over to be a part of San Francisco Pride," according to Pride Executive Director Teddy Witherington.

Ballot boxes will be set up around the city over the weekends of March 24-25 and March 31-April 1; sites include 18th and Castro, the N'Touch on Polk, and to-be-announced polling places in South of Market and the East Bay. A ballot box also will be present at the fourth anniversary of the popular Latin party Poppy on March 24. Voters from outside the Bay Area will probably be able to mail in their ballots; details will be available soon on the SF Pride Web site.

People may vote only once for up to three people in each of the three categories for individual, celebrity, and organization nominees.

Celebrity nominees for grand marshal are actress/performer Nell Carter, South Korean actor Hong Suk Chon, former Presi-

page 14 ►

You can be a B.A.R. star!

by Cynthia Laird

Have you always wanted to see your name in print? Now is your chance as the Bay Area Reporter is seeking essays from readers about what LGBT Pride means to them.

Many changes have occurred in the LGBT communities over the years. Younger queers are coming out earlier, which has resulted in gay-straight alliances popping up throughout the country. Older gays and lesbians have seen progress in obtaining equal rights, though much more needs to be done.

And yet, every June, the diverse LGBT communities come together and throw one of the Bay Area's biggest parties, the Pride Parade and related events.

This year, the B.A.R. wants to hear from you, our readers. In 500 words or less, tell us what Pride means to you, and why you participate in what has become both a celebration and a political statement. What makes Pride special? What things should we keep fighting for, and what makes the Bay Area one of the best places to live if you're queer?

We'll run as many responses as we can in our upcoming Pride issue.

Essays must include your name, city, and a daytime phone number for verification. Submissions can be mailed to: B.A.R. Pride Essays, 395 9th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 or e-mailed to BARpaper@aol.com. The deadline for entries is Thursday, April 5. ▼

Houston goes to Chicago!



International Ms. Leather Jo Blas of San Diego, left, gives a congratulatory hug to Houston Davenport, Mr. San Francisco Leather 2001. He was chosen by seven judges at Club Townsend Friday, March 9 and will compete at International Mr. Leather in Chicago over Memorial Day weekend. For the full story, see Mister Marcus's column on page 34.

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Sharon Smith files wrongful death suit

by Ed Walsh

Lawyers for Sharon Smith, the partner of dog-mauling victim Diane Whipple, expect a long contentious battle in a wrongful death lawsuit that could set legal precedence over the rights of gay couples.

On Monday, March 12, Smith filed suit against the dogs' caretakers, Marjorie Knoller and Robert Noel as well as Rudolph Koppl, the owner of the building where she and Whipple lived and the site of the January 26 attack.

"Diane Whipple was my partner and my best friend," said Smith as she fought back tears at a City Hall press conference. "And even as I say that, that does not begin to describe the depth of our love and relationship."

Smith plans to donate any money she recovers in the suit to the foundation that was set up in Whipple's honor. No dollar figure was named in the suit. The suit alleges that Koppl, the landlord, "was negligent in permitting Knoller and Noel to keep vicious dogs in the building." Koppl did not return a call for comment.

Smith was flanked at the press conference by her attorneys, Michael Cardoza, and Kate Kendell, the executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

A copy of Whipple's two-page handwritten will was attached to the lawsuit. Whipple wrote that if she dies, virtually all of her assets should go to Smith. Smith's attorneys say it bolsters their claim that Smith and Whipple should be considered de facto legal spouses. Currently, state law only allows married couples or family members the right to sue for the death of a spouse.

In an interview with the *Bay Area Reporter* on Tuesday, March



Sharon Smith

13, Noel said he questions the validity of the will and reiterated that Smith has no legal standing to bring a wrongful death suit. Noel said he still hadn't been served with the suit and said that contrary to published reports, he hasn't been asked or subpoenaed to appear before the grand jury that is currently hearing testimony in the case.

"It seems that everybody has been told that but me," Noel said of the reports. "Nobody from the DA's office has contacted me."

Noel said he wanted to set straight a published report that said that a copy of his dog training book *Manstopper* was "surprisingly" turned over during the court hearing at Pelican Bay Prison last week.

"We had received a letter from the DA two days before the hearing saying 'please produce the *Manstopper* book for us' so we did it," he said. Noel first told the B.A.R. he planned to hand over the book in an interview last week.

Police say the attack-dog training book could be very strong evidence in their case against Noel and Knoller.

Monday's lawsuit filing came

as a surprise to Whipple's mother, Pamela Whipple-Kelly, who told the B.A.R. that she has been kept in the dark and out of the loop for most of the recent developments in the case. Whipple-Kelly said she plans on filing her own wrongful death lawsuit and she was surprised that Smith's attorneys didn't file their suit at the same time.

"I thought Michael [Cardoza] was going to wait and do it with our attorney," said Whipple-Kelly. "I don't understand why he couldn't have waited. I guess he got impatient and went ahead and did it anyway."

At the press conference, Cardoza said that when Whipple-Kelly's lawsuit is filed, it will be combined with Smith's lawsuit.

The release of the written will also came as a surprise to Whipple-Kelly. She was first informed of the will by the B.A.R. three weeks ago and hadn't seen a copy of it until she was faxed a copy of it by the B.A.R. on Monday.

Whipple-Kelly and Smith's attorneys have been sharply critical of the slow pace of the district attorney office's investigation. DA spokesman, Reginald Smith, told the B.A.R. that charges would likely be brought at the beginning of next week.

A benefit for the Diane Alexis Whipple Foundation will be held in the Plush Room at the York Hotel, 940 Sutter Street, on Tuesday, March 20, at 8 p.m. The event will feature an evening of music headlined by Paula West. The \$50 cover charge is tax deductible. For reservations call (415) 885-2800.

NCLR's Kendell will speak at the Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco, 150 Eureka Street, this Sunday, March 18, at 7 p.m. She will address Whipple's death and the need for legal equality for same-sex couples. NCLR's Web site is NCLRights.org. ▼

BALIF dinner focuses on DP rights

by Ed Walsh

Sharon Smith, the seven-year partner of dog-mauling victim Diane Whipple, was the surprise honored guest at the 21st annual dinner for the Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom held last Thursday March 8, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in San Francisco.

In a brief interview outside the event ballroom, Smith told the *Bay Area Reporter* that her grief has only intensified now that the initial shock of the January 26 attack has worn off.

"It's getting harder, emotionally," Smith said. "It's really starting to settle in. You pass that first two-week period where you realize she's not coming back from an extended vacation, it's for real. Emotionally, it's been very, very tough."

Smith said that she's actively looking to move out of the building that is a constant reminder of the horrific way Whipple died. "I've looked at a few apartments but there's not enough time in the day to get everything done that I want to do and I just started work on Monday," she said.

When asked about the intense press coverage of the case and whether she thought the media was respectful of her relationship

with Whipple, Smith said: "Absolutely, I do. There's been a lot of media. I've never experienced anything like this but I think everyone's been very respectful."

Whipple's death catapulted Smith virtually overnight into the role of gay activist and put her in the role of the poster child for domestic partner rights.

"It's a little bit new to me but I have done some political things. When I was living in D.C., I was very political. But certainly I was a very private person and now this is a very public thing."

"It doesn't seem like I'm doing a job or anything, it just seems like absolutely the right thing to do," Smith added.

Smith said she was hopeful that her wrongful death lawsuit against the dogs' caretakers, Marjorie Knoller and Robert Noel, will be successful. She plans to donate any money she collects from the suit to the Diane Alexis Whipple Foundation to help support school athletics and other projects that were most important to Whipple.

"I'm cautiously optimistic," Smith said of the lawsuit. "I don't want to set my hopes up and be disappointed. But I am being wonderfully supported by both Michael [her attorney Michael Cardoza] and Kate Kendell [exec-

utive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights] and the community at large. It feels like the time is right to make a difference, to make a change."

That community support was in evidence at the start of the BALIF dinner. Smith and her lawyer were introduced as they sat at their table near the stage. Those gathered in the packed ballroom gave them a standing ovation in support of their efforts to bring comparable rights to gay partners in civil lawsuits.

Smith's efforts were very much in keeping with one of the main themes of the BALIF event: domestic partner rights. A table was set up outside the dinner to register domestic partners under California's Domestic Partner Registry.

The keynote speaker of the event was Mary Bonauto, the civil rights director of Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, the organization behind the historic Vermont Supreme Court ruling that eventually paved the way for the state Legislature's same-sex civil union law that was adopted last year.

Bonauto told attendees that the struggle for equality can only be won through the next step, gay marriages. She said that civil unions are no substitution for the

next page ►

AIDS activists target HIV drug advertising

by Jeff Getty, Survive AIDS Writers Pool

Activists learned this week that San Francisco Department of Public Health officials now have preliminary data to demonstrate that common HIV drug treatment print advertisements may cause people to have unsafe sex, further spreading the disease.

DPH surveyed some 262 patients at city clinics that treat sexually transmitted diseases and found that 62 percent of respondents thought that HIV ads caused unsafe sexual behavior.

"I believe the HIV ads may play a role in the increasing treatment optimism. Treatment optimism or the belief that treatments make HIV a more curable, manageable infection has been shown to be associated with increases in unsafe sexual behavior among certain populations," said DPH's Dr. Jeff Klausner.

Activists have grown more concerned about the use of young and sexually attractive models in HIV drug ads. The models, even if infected at age 21, would mostly still be in the earliest stages of HIV at the time they pose for certain HIV drug ads such as Bristol-Myers Squibb's "I'm Positive! and I take Zerit" ad. The Zerit ad features a scantily clad sexy young man as a Zerit user. Most of these models would not likely have full-blown AIDS yet. Recently released government guidelines for AIDS treatment indicate that patients should not take the HIV drugs

until they have progressed to AIDS or have a T-cell count below 200.

"These ads are both misleading about what one looks like with the disease, and more alarmingly, when one should begin treatment," said Michael Lauro, a Survive AIDS activist.

Klausner said that he is worried about the effects the ads are having on high-risk populations in the city. "The ads are clearly using sex to sell medications for a sexually transmitted disease. I think this is problematic and is like using Big Macs to sell cholesterol-lowering drugs," he said.

Klausner and some activists have met with Food and Drug Administration officials and have asked for federal regulatory assistance. "It would be easy for drug companies to insert prevention messages in their ads and make them more balanced. Either the idea never occurred to them or they are not interested in preventing HIV," added Klausner.

The FDA's Richard Klein indicated that the agency would consider sending a letter asking drug companies to tone down the ads. "We share the community's concerns about these ads and are working internally to try and find a way that the FDA can help solve the problem," said Klein.

Drug companies have thus far responded in an article appearing in the March 14 edition of New York's *Newsday* newspaper. In the article, written by Laurie Garrett, Bristol-Myers Squibb representatives said that "direct-to-consumer advertising of prescription drugs

improves public health by prompting people to see their doctors and become more involved in their health." Merck also defended its right to market HIV drugs.

According to Klausner, one drug company had been contacted about the danger. "I wrote a letter to Merck in November asking them to reconsider their 'mountain climbing' ad campaign for Crixivan because I thought it gave the wrong message and might be contributing to persons' perceptions that HIV is a curable, manageable disease and resultant increases in unsafe sexual behavior. Merck replied that they did not believe their ads were misleading or that there was any association with their ads and increased risk behaviors. Obviously, the drug companies are not going to voluntarily deal with this important issue," he said.

This week, Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano called for a public hearing to look into the issue. Activists have asked for Ammiano's help in banning the ads on spaces such as buses, bus shelters, and other city property. Ammiano has seen DPH's preliminary survey data and is very concerned. "These drug companies could be liable for increases in HIV infection here in our city," Ammiano said.

DPH officials plan to continue current surveys monitoring drug ad influence on gay men, and likely will publish a report later this year. "It is my job to chip away at different factors that might be related to these increases and protect the health of San Franciscans," Klausner said. ▼

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BALIF dinner

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cultural importance of marriage.

"People don't sing songs about domestic partners. They don't sing songs about civil unions.

"The only people who can't marry is us and that has got to change," said Bonauto.

Bonauto stressed the importance of other states taking up where Vermont left off.

"Civil unions are simply not good enough at all," she said. "Let's have some other states stand on the broad shoulders of Vermont and take us to the second step."

Bonauto said that although Vermont civil unions guarantee do-



GLAD's Mary Bonauto

mestic partners comparable rights in state matters, any protections on

the federal level are off limits.

BALIF presented its Community Service Award to the Scouting for All organization. The award was picked up by Dave Rice, a heterosexual man who was kicked out as a Boy Scout leader for being outspoken against the scouts' anti-gay policies. A trailer of the award-winning documentary *Scouts Honor* was shown just before Rice received his award.

Near the start of the dinner, BALIF honored San Francisco gay rights attorney Paul Wotman who died last December. Attendees were invited to look over a series of exhibits that were set up in the foyer that included a number of newspaper clippings, letters, and awards documenting his work. ▼

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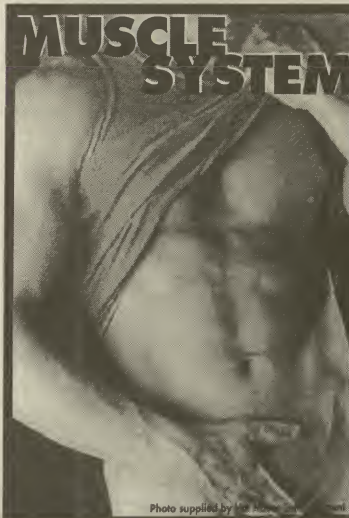
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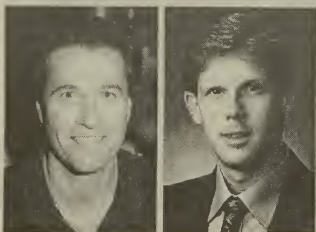
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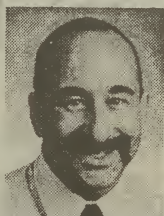
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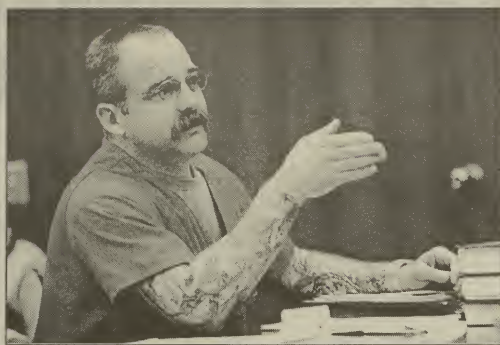
Carmichael's new trial motion continued

by Cynthia Laird

A motion for a new trial by an AIDS activist who was convicted in January of felony battery on a peace officer in San Jose has been continued until today (Thursday, March 15).

Last Friday, March 9, Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Alden E. Danner agreed to continue the hearing, after the prisoner, longtime AIDS activist Brian Patrick Carmichael, requested it. Since Carmichael was convicted of the battery charge he has been fighting for a new trial, and maintains that police officers lied on the stand during his January trial and that he was inadequately represented by the Santa Clara County public defender's office. He is representing himself in the legal proceedings.

The case against Carmichael stems from an incident that occurred at San Jose International Airport last September as Carmichael stepped off an airplane. Police were waiting at the airport to talk to Carmichael, who while on the airplane in Dallas, got into an argument with a passenger who was occupying a seat Carmichael had been told was re-



Brian Carmichael makes a point during last week's hearing.

served for his ill brother. During a scuffle after Carmichael got off the plane, he fell on a police officer, who reported that he suffered an injury as a result.

During the February 23 hearing, however, Carmichael raised questions over how the officer was injured, and presented evidence that contradicted the prosecution's case.

The March 9 hearing was a continuation of the February 23 motion for a new trial; however, Carmichael told the court that he

was exhausted and was not prepared to finish his arguments.

Because of Carmichael's prior convictions, he faces a possible third strike sentence on the battery charge. If Carmichael's argument for a new trial fails, he is prepared to file a motion that the sentence be reduced to a misdemeanor.

Deputy District Attorney David Soares, who's prosecuting the case, is expected to present his arguments against a new trial for Carmichael at the March 15 hearing. ▼

Friday reappointed to Police Commission

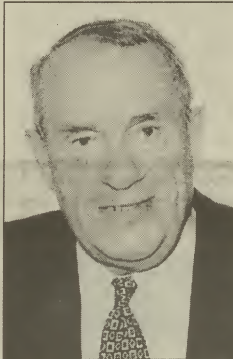
by David Fraser

Wayne Friday, a longtime gay and civil rights activist and political editor of the *Bay Area Reporter*, has been appointed to his third term on the San Francisco Police Commission. Mayor Willie Brown reappointed Friday in early March to a four-year term after naming him to the board in 1999 to fill an unexpired term. Friday's first appointment came in 1993.

Friday was sworn in to his latest term last Friday, March 9 during a City Hall ceremony.

"I want to emphasize that we're always looking to recruit qualified gay and lesbian police officers," Friday told the *B.A.R.* "They make some of our best officers. Deputy Chief Mindy Pengel is an out lesbian, and could very well be chief one day."

Additionally, an open lesbian, Lieutenant Judie Pursell, is in



Wayne Friday

charge of the department's Homicide Bureau and there are a number of gay and lesbian officers.

Friday said another of his goals is to boost police ranks from current levels, just above 2,100 offi-

cers, to the full complement of 2,300.

The five-member Police Commission is chartered to take responsibility for organizing, managing, and setting all policy for the city's 2,300-member police force. It approves the Police Department's annual budget, and oversees issues ranging from officer misconduct to the 911 emergency system and the Office of Civilian Complaints.

Friday is often viewed as a barometer for San Francisco politics and the gay/lesbian scene via his weekly *B.A.R.* column, "Our Man Friday," which has run for more than 20 years.

He is a retired investigator for the District Attorney's office. ▼

Those interested in finding out more about becoming a San Francisco police officer can call the recruitment office at (415) 695-6915.

GAPA extravaganza this Saturday

by David Fraser

What do sailors and barber-shops have in common? Well, they're both available - in song - at "Love American Style: A Queer Asian Musical Showcase" set for this Saturday, March 17 at 7 p.m.

The extravaganza of American music, presented by Gay Asian Pacific Alliance, will be at ODC Theater, 3153 17th Street in San Francisco. Tickets are \$10 general admission and \$8 for GAPA members and supporters.

"For those with a taste for seamen," said Randy Kikukawa, choral director of the GAPA Men's Chorus, "we'll offer rollicking sailor songs and sea chanteys. If you prefer aural pleasure in a traditional vein, we also have folk songs and barbershop harmonies sure to tickle your fancy."

Singers will also present pop hits and show tunes, all exploring aspects of love.

The chorus, not surprisingly, will offer a blend of songs "with a decidedly gay flavor."

The other major attraction at Love American Style will be the GAPA Dance Company. Fresh from a successful artist-in-residency at the Jon Sims Center for the Arts, the dancers will perform works by the company's own choreographers, including new and repertory pieces by Michael Palad, Alma Soongi Beck, Budi Kirana, and Ian Michael Enriquez.

"The repertoire for the evening is mostly hip-hop and modern, strongly influenced by everything from aerobics and ballroom dance to cheerleading," said Lewis Fernandez, GAPA Dance Company coordinator.

Love American Style is a project in the GAPA Community Arts Project, which advocates for the artistic expression of a gay Asian Pacific perspective. It works through creating a supportive network of gay Asian Pacific Islander artists; encouraging inno-

vation and collaboration among disciplines; and promoting cultural diversity in the larger GLBT community and mainstream Asian Pacific American population.

GAPA works to further the interests of the gay and bisexual Asian Pacific Islander community. It acknowledges Jon Sims Center for the Arts for the opportunity to create new works and develop talent through the recent AIR-space residency. The San Francisco Foundation's Gateway Initiative and the Horizons Foundation, helped in GAPA's development. ▼

Tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door. Call ODC Box Office, (415) 863-9834. For additional information call (415) 282-GAPA; e-mail: info@gapacultural.org; or check out the Web site: www.gapacultural.org.

PlanetOut calls off merger with Advocate, announces 29 layoffs

by David Fraser

The gravity of the dot-com implosion is pulling two dominant LGBT Web sites, PlanetOut and Gay.com, back to earth.

The popular PlanetOut has drawn considerable media attention in recent weeks because of two planned mergers, one on the brink of approval and the other a rather visible failure, even to the naked eye.

The merger with Gay.com is moving ahead, according to company spokeswoman Rosanne Siino, but has sparked the layoff of 29 people between the two firms, or about 25 percent of their combined work force.

Siino, vice president of corporate communications, said the layoffs, "mostly through redundancies," had been spread across the firms' departments and that no more were planned.

Siino told the *Bay Area Reporter* that "we should hear by month's end" that the Gay.com merger has received official state approval.

The new company will be called PlanetOut Partners Inc., and will result from the merger of the PlanetOut Corporation and Gay.com's parent firm, OnlinePartners.com Inc.

But PlanetOut's planned high-profile merger with Liberation Pub-

lications Inc., publisher of the *Advocate* and *Out* magazines, has collapsed in the wake of the stock market slump and the dot-com purge. Both firms announced on March 8 the termination of their letter of intent (LOI), signed last year.

The announcement of the LOI termination said that "changes in the investment environment" and the subsequent merger plans with Gay.com led to the break with Liberation Publications.

Originally the marriage would have brought a \$30 million dowry in PlanetOut stock to Liberation, according to the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

The *Advocate* has an off-line circulation of 94,000; *Out* magazine has around 100,000.

Layoffs and profits

Another factor in the layoffs was the need for profitability, according to Bryce Eberhart, a spokesman for both PlanetOut and Online Partners.

"Our investors have demanded profitability by year end, so we've brought expenses below expected revenues to comply," Eberhart said in an article on Gay.com's site.

"Because of the tight economic climate, we are choosing to be very focused in putting our resources behind products that are central to our core mission and revenue possibilities as a merged company," Eberhart added. "We are eliminating some projects

from the two heritage companies that don't make sense in the current environment."

Members growing ... but paying?

Between the two merging sites there are "about 2 million members, and we're seeing phenomenal growth," Siino said.

Web traffic monitor Media Metrix reported last summer that PlanetOut was the Web's number one gay and lesbian site, reaching around 586,000 unique visitors monthly. When combined with its reach on the PlanetOut site on America Online, the visitor total was about 1.6 million.

That number was down a bit in a more recent Media Metrix report, giving PlanetOut 565,000 visitors and Gay.com 612,000 in January.

The real question is whether those members and other visitors are generating sufficient revenue. PlanetOut Partners will increasingly push its revenue-producing products, including e-commerce-based sources such as paid personal ads, travel package deals with airlines and travel industry firms, and product sales.

Siino said Gay.com's acquisition of Kleptomaniac, an aggregator of products through an online neighborhood store "like you'd find in the Castro," should help. Kleptomaniac offers everything from home products to puppy ac-

cessories to "Fashions for Bad-boys, naughty not nice."

Seduction

Last year, as the promise of the Internet-driven "New Economy" expanded, numerous firms were seduced into building a major online presence as quickly as possible. A year later, such Web sites remain in many cases as mechanisms for branding, information, or simply to keep a virtual public presence. But while e-commerce is not likely to disappear, it has failed to keep the promise of massive consumer-driven profits. With the dot-com demise, the ability to make money purely through the Internet has become a fading dream for many.

Despite the dissolution of the merger plan, the *Advocate* (www.advocate.com) remains linked to the PlanetOut site as a partner. Both parties sought to strike an upbeat pose over the merger collapse.

"We continue to see great synergies between our print publications and the online media of PlanetOut and Online Partners," said Liberation Publications President Jim Franklin, in a written statement.

Asked what those synergistic possibilities were, Siino told the *B.A.R.*: "We're looking at things such as cross-promotion of brands, doing more of their content targeting our audience, and ways to co-market brands." ▼

Correction

In the March 8 *Bay Area Reporter* article, "CAPS to present HIV prevention confab in SF," organizer Ellen Goldstein was misquoted. The conference will address both strategies and methods for conducting effective HIV prevention within multiple communities. We regret the error.



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OPEN FORUM

Drug marketing responsibly

The news this week that health officials believe ads for HIV medications may cause an increase in unsafe sexual practices did not particularly surprise us. We know that living with HIV isn't a glamorous existence, nor is it easy to do, even with medication. Side effects can be debilitating, as many readers know.

When protease inhibitors hit the market several years ago, drug companies began aggressive ad campaigns in gay publications, including this one. Over the years, the competition among drug companies has become fierce as each product attempts to stand out in an increasingly crowded field. It's not surprising that the ads themselves have evolved and feature younger, more attractive men hawking the pills.

Now comes word that city health officials have been surveying men who come into city-run clinics for treatment of sexually transmitted diseases. Of 262 men questioned, 72 percent agreed with the statement that "HIV drug advertisements ... portray men who are healthy, handsome, and strong"; 62 percent felt the ads "affect a person's decision to have unprotected sex."

As a newspaper that has regularly run such ads, we would like to point out that censoring ads is not our job. Over the years, we've run ads for many things that are controversial or with which we don't necessarily agree. A couple of years ago, after much debate, we ran an ad for an ex-gay ministry. No, we certainly did not agree with the ad, but we didn't believe that ad censorship had a place in our publication. Similarly, we've drawn responses from readers for running ads promoting or condemning ACT UP/San Francisco.

While the HIV drug ads may feature people looking like the picture of good health, all of the ads contain disclaimers and descriptions of side effects and other treatment information.

Nevertheless, the latest study, which is continuing, raises important questions that we feel are best addressed by federal regula-

tors. Prescription drug advertising is regulated, and companies have to adhere to certain standards, which is why each ad requires descriptions of side effects and other patient information. Along these lines, perhaps it is time for federal officials to rethink how HIV drugs are marketed and make needed changes.

Of course, the drug companies themselves could make changes and market their products more responsibly.

It's important to realize, however, that drug ads aren't the only thing tempting men to engage in unsafe sex. Recreational drug use and alcohol use among men — especially among the circuit party crowd — also leads to unsafe

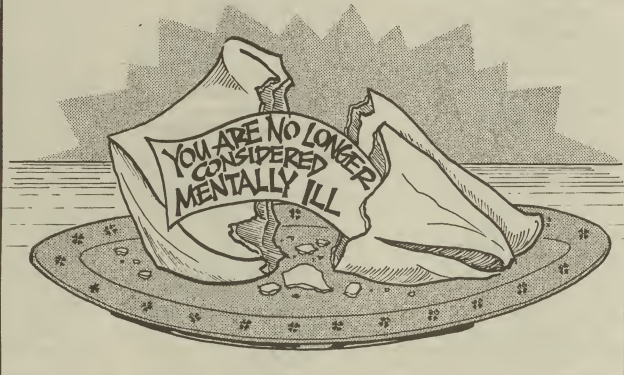
sex, as people start feeling the "high" and loosen up, engaging in practices in which they may not have participated had they been sober.

HIV prevention and education are still the best medicine. Advertising has always been about selling products, and HIV medications are no exception. People need to read the entire ad and be aware that virtually any HIV medication comes with moderate to severe side effects.

We'd like to see the drug companies acknowledge that their ads can be misleading and take steps to correct the perception that people taking the drugs can lead carefree lives. This is not the case with HIV, as those living with the disease know all too well. ▼



Editorial

JUST DESSERT
FOR GAYS IN CHINA...

Keep fighting for equality

by Marc Paige

I always try to avoid the tendency of "eating our own" — attacking other gays because they are easy targets, as opposed to going after the real enemies of our community: Trent Lott, Dick Cheney, right-wing "religious" groups. But there are gay people whose convictions and rhetoric have the potential to harm our movement for equality.

Kevin Ivers, director of public affairs for the gay group Log Cabin Republicans, is one such person. Ivers seems more interested in seeing the Republican Party triumph, rather than gay people treated with justice and equality. Recently, gay Congressman Barney Frank used Dick Cheney's vice presidential debate comments on states making their own decision regarding gay unions, to introduce legislation to repeal the clause in the so-called Defense of Marriage Act that defines marriage as a "legal union between one man and one woman." But Ivers has called Frank's bill a "clever trick" aimed at drawing publicity from Cheney's comments, and said that Frank's bill will not be taken seriously. Congressman Frank wants to take advantage of Vice President Cheney's positive comments, and Ivers should welcome this, rather than worry how the bill might hurt or divide the GOP. I expect the LCR to welcome and support legislation designed to advance the cause of gay equality, regardless of whether the bills come from a Republican or a Democrat.

In the January 15 issue of the *Austin American-Statesman*, Ivers was quoted as saying "it's time homosexuals look beyond the narrow range of issues that have previously preoccupied them." Ivers feels that education reform, tax reform, and sustained economic growth are gay issues, and of course, they are. But tax reform is not going to help the gay men and women who are denied custody of their children, the gay couples who remain unrecognized, the gay service people who are thrown out of the military, or the gay youth terrorized at

school. It is insulting and condescending for any Republican to ignore the issue of discrimination in the military, but expect our votes if we agree on tax reform.

In a recent issue of *The New Republic*, gay writer Andrew Sullivan questions whether gay groups rely too much on "victimhood" to gain equality in America, citing the priorities of hate crimes and employment discrimination in our legislative agenda. However, I never hear Sullivan rail against the employment protection already in place based on race, religion, sex, national origin, and marital status. It would appear more fair if Sullivan was as obsessed at eliminating these protected categories as he is in working to ensure that sexual orientation is not added to the list. Sullivan also describes the number of gay hate crimes as "puny," but this does not hold up in my home state, Rhode Island, where in 1999 gays were the group most targeted. Sullivan's comments give cover and comfort to those who work to deny gay people equality in America.

Sullivan does get it right, however, when in the same article he writes that there must be no more talk of homosexuality somehow being a "private matter," perpetuating the culture of the closet. In an interview with the *New York Times* shortly before he took office, George W. Bush said, "I believe that someone's sexual orientation is their private business." Your sex life should be private. But your sexual orientation is not your sex life, and neither, by the way, is it your "lifestyle." We, as gay people, must understand these distinctions. Heterosexuals are encouraged to keep their sex life private, but not their sexual orientation. The same should be true of homosexuals. Bush cannot be allowed to dismiss sexual orientation as a "private matter" to avoid dealing with the demands of a group seeking justice.

Rhetoric that is harmful to us is not just the province of the gay ideological right. Dixon

Osborn, the executive director of the Service Members Legal Defense Network, a nonpartisan gay group, recently said, "We don't expect the Bush administration to open the military with a policy of non-discrimination, but we hope the door remains open and that [Defense] Secretary [Donald] Rumsfeld is committed to uphold the law as it was intended in 1993." We should continue to demand that DADT becomes just an ugly part of history, while at the same time work to make life easier for gay service members in this current situation. We must not accept in any way Bush's continuation of the unabashed bigotry that DADT represents.

Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, prudently indicated she was ready to work with the Bush administration to continue the advancement of gay rights. But Daniel McGlinchey, political director of the National Stonewall Democrats, has declared the Bush presidency "a four-year holding pattern" on issues important to gays.

Elizabeth Toledo, of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, said it will be good to remove our tuxedos and put on our marching shoes. The bar and expectations have been lowered for the Bush presidency by too many gay leaders of all political persuasions, and it is time to put a halt to this. We must not lessen our demands of President Bush, because in doing so, crumbs become achievements; outrages become mere expectations. Our goals and determination should be exactly the same as if Al Gore had been inaugurated on January 20. We should not have to endure a "time-out" for our "place at the table."

No gay leader should accept anything but a President Bush who recognizes the dignity and worth of gay Americans, and helps to continue our movement for full equality. For any gay leader, or gay voter for that matter, to accept anything less is to buy into second-class status. We have worked too hard and come too far for that. ▼



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Such a '90s term

The problem with the "queer" banner on the LGBT Center is that the word "queer" is so '90s. The gay tongue has moved on, leaving queer behind. The retro terms that I'm embracing these days are "colorful" and "eccentric".

Robert Allen
San Francisco

What about the workers?

The sign might say queerest place in America but I suspect the construction workers there aren't the queerest men in America.

R. Larkin
San Francisco

'Harsh tone' speaks volumes

The harsh tone of Thom Story's letter [Mailstrom, March 1] regarding dog ownership in the city speaks volumes. Indeed, dog owners need to control their pets to avoid chaos and prevent injury. Regrettably, many fail to do so.

I take exception, however, to his statement, "It is an animal and should be treated as such." The implication being that other species are somehow inferior or less deserving of compassion.

Personally, I'm far less impressed by the erratic animals that get around on two feet (or more often on four wheels) and I'll take a dog's sincere company to that of many troubled humans.

You laud human contact for the ability to talk back, Thom? They talk back all right, most often without thinking first.

Paul Bartleman
San Francisco

Revise rent control laws

In the article on Supervisor Chris Daly's proposed TIC legislation [March 8], Katie Szymanski fails to mention several key points. First, the legislation will further restrict the supply of housing for sale, which in turn will continue to drive up prices for buyers, especially first time buyers. Secondly, TICs are similar in structure to cooperative apartments, which have long been used in New York City to provide home ownership to individuals. Risks associated with them are minimal. Third, Supervisor Daly's proposal, by compelling owners to sell to current occupants at below market rates, may make it easier for individuals to own the apartments they now occupy, but will make it harder for them to buy a different apartment, because the prices of all available housing will be driven up by this proposal. Additionally, how is forcing apartment owners to sell to current occupants at below market rates (as determined by what other buyers are willing to pay) good for them? Fourth, what evidence does Robert Haaland have to support his dubious contention that TICs are "decimating our community" and driving gay people out of San Francisco? (I'm familiar with one TIC conversion involving a five-unit building. In that case, one gay person left the city, while three other gay individuals moved into the newly refurbished apartments – a net gain of two. And the person who moved out was delighted with the money he was given to vacate, making it much easier for him to retire to Palm Springs.) Fifth, what hard evidence does Haaland offer as proof that "Buying a home is out of reach for 90 percent of our gay brothers and sisters?"

If Daly wants to help bring down the cost of housing, he should look at revising outrageous rent control laws that currently are keeping 10,000 apartments vacant, increasing the number of apartments that may be converted to condominiums, adding no more restrictions to TICs, and working toward increasing the supply of homes for sale and for rent.

Gustavo Serina
San Francisco

Sad but true

Thank you for the article regarding tenancies-in-common. It was refreshing to see an article that challenges the lies that the real estate industry put forth during the last election.

As a gay person, it was disturbing to see gay real estate agents resort to outright lies to win against Proposition N. The real estate agents said it was "anti-gay" to want a limit on TICs. What they left out of their message was that gay people get evicted out of their apartments so that wealthy people can pay hundreds of thousands of dollars to live in a condo.

We need this limiting of TICs so that non-rich gay people and their families can continue to live in this city.

Rather than calling this legislation anti-gay, it would be more truthful to call it anti-gay-real estate profiteers. Sometimes sharing a sexual orientation does not automatically ensure that people are looking out for each other. To the gay real estate agents, sometimes profit speaks more loudly than community. Sad but true.

Dennis Seely
San Francisco

Where's protection for owners?

I found the article by Katie Szymanski about regulation of tenancies-in-common in the March 8 B.A.R. to be biased. Absolutely no effort was made to explore or discuss opposing views. Even the headline, which included the words "Proposed ordinance protects renters and owners alike," was false and misleading, as the article failed to identify any portion of Chris Daly's proposal that arguably provides protection of property ownership as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. No opposing opinions from groups such as the San Francisco Apartment Association and the Small Property Owners Association were presented. To my knowledge, no one in the real estate management community was consulted prior to submission of Mr. Daly's proposal, and no one regards it as a "compromise" as the article asserts. It is nothing less than an attempt by Mr. Daly to subvert the will of San Franciscans who overwhelmingly rejected Proposition N in the November election. In November the B.A.R. election endorsements were firmly against Proposition N.

No mention was made that Chris Daly has a close political alliance with Ted Gullickson, a paid professional agitator who makes a nice living by perpetuating the housing crisis. Mr. Gullickson very publicly opposes any and all property owner's rights, including the basic right to live in one's own property. Further, no mention was made in the article of Chris Daly's behavior at a recent Board of Supervisors hearing, where the speaking time period of opposing viewpoints was reduced by two-thirds – to a mere 60 seconds, in order to silence the voices of those who disagree with Mr. Daly's self-serving and politically motivated housing policy agenda. Incidentally, Daly's behavior was accurately described as "Stalinist" by another San Francisco publication.

Based on what we have seen of Chris Daly's performance so far, we should all be grateful that there is an opportunity to remove him from public office in less than two years, when he must run for re-election in his district. I am an openly gay man who is also a small property owner. The fact that Daly is so beholden to one special interest group and is unwilling to even hear both sides of an issue clearly demonstrates that he is unfit to serve all San Franciscans regardless of their sexual orientation.

Jon Bumgarner
San Francisco

Hats off to Gold's

Hats off to Gold's Gym for setting down standards of behavior for its clients ["No 'sex Nazis' at Gold's Gym, manager says," February 8]. I am a liberal who grew up during the sexual revolution of the 1960s and 1970s, and I am a total supporter of sexual freedom. But I also support standards of public decency.

I've lived in San Francisco from 1985-1991, and plan to return next year. But I've always been at a loss to understand what makes gay men in the Castro think that having sex in public is no different than walking down the street.

Around 1990 I was watching an old, silent Lillian Gish movie at the Castro Theatre. Some idiot sat next to me – in the middle of the movie – and without a word, put his hand in my crotch and squeezed it. When I pushed him away he said something to the effect of: "This is the Castro – get over it." From then till now, I've been unable to find even one single gay man in the Castro who sees anything wrong with what that man did. More than a hundred gay men in the Castro told me that I was homophobic and sex-negative because I didn't recognize the right of some fool to sexually harass me. "He's just celebrating his sexuality," I was repeatedly told. "He didn't hurt you, did he, so what's the problem?" This attitude began with the theater's then-manager, and continued on from there.

This has always been the attitude of gay men in the Castro: "We're gay, so therefore we have no faults and can do what we want." That belief extends to important civil rights issues such as public masturbation and sexual harassment. Then we wonder why straights think we're sex addicts.

Yes, I really am a sexual liberal. Drag, leather, sex clubs, orgies, porn, transgender rights, gay marriage, and gay adoption, I support them all. But there's a time and place for everything.

So hats off to Gold's Gym. Standards of behavior are needed, badly.

David Alexander Nahmod
Hoboken, New Jersey

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Who is Tommy Kirk?

by Rawley Grau

March 25, 1964 (37 years ago this month): Disney releases *The Misadventures of Merlin Jones*, starring Tommy Kirk, a young actor whose real-life misadventures would soon get him fired from the studio.

When conservative religious leaders called for a boycott of the Walt Disney Company in 1997, they were especially enraged over the Disney-produced sitcom *Ellen*, in which the lead character (and actress Ellen DeGeneres, who played her) had just come out as a lesbian. Underlying their anger was a sense of betrayal. The Disney name, after all, had long been synonymous with "traditional family values," and the company had often taken great pains to preserve its squeaky-clean image.

But things had changed at Disney, as in much of American society. Certainly, the religious right would have had nothing to complain about had the company dealt with Ellen DeGeneres the same way "Uncle Walt" had dealt with another gay actor three decades earlier.

In 1964, 23-year-old Tommy Kirk was one of the studio's most successful stars. Originally from Kentucky but raised in Los Angeles, Kirk had come to Walt Disney's attention at the age of 13, while performing in a regional stage production of Eugene O'Neill's *Ah, Wilderness*. Disney signed the young teenager to a long-term contract, and the next year Kirk was playing one of the "Hardy Boys" on *The Mickey Mouse Club* TV series.

Before long, however, his boy-next-door looks, obvious intelligence, and confident acting took him to the big screen with a starring role in *Old Yeller* (1957). From then on, Kirk was making two or three movies a year for Disney, with leading roles in such crowd-pleasers as *The Shaggy Dog* (1959), *Swiss Family Robinson* (1960), and *Savage Sam* (1963), the sequel to *Old Yeller*. With the release of *The Misadventures of Merlin Jones* (1964) — the first theatrical film in which he was given top billing — Kirk's future at the studio seemed secure.

Although it may true that, as some have observed, Walt Disney was grooming Kirk to be the "All-American boy" and "the epitome of young masculinity," it is worth noting that Kirk's characters tended to be outsiders, brainy, and somewhat socially inept, though lovable nonetheless. In *The Shaggy Dog*, for instance, Kirk plays a hapless teenage inventor who accidentally gets turned into a sheepdog. When his dog-hating

father, played by Fred MacMurray, learns that his son is canine, he moans, "Where did we go wrong with him?"

In *Swiss Family Robinson*, Kirk is the clever castaway brother who very pointedly does not get the girl; she falls instead for the sexy brother (James MacArthur) and decides to stay on the island and make a family with him. Kirk, meanwhile, dressed in top hat and tails, leaves the rest of his family behind at the end of the movie, as he sails off to England for a university education. Although Kirk's character in *Merlin Jones* does get the most popular girl on campus, he, too, is a socially challenged brainiac who displays more affection for his chimpanzee than for Annette Funicello.

Kirk was 17 or 18 when he first realized he was gay and "wasn't going to change," the actor recalled in a 1993 interview.

But he was "very, very lonely": "I had some brief, very passionate encounters, and as a teenager I had some affairs, but they were always stolen, back-alley kind of things." He was also scared. "I had the definite feeling that [being gay] was going to wreck my Disney career and maybe my whole acting career."

His fears came true in 1964, when the mother of a boy he was seeing discovered their affair and told Walt Disney about it. Kirk was summoned to a meeting with Disney, who fired him without giving him a chance to explain. No reason was ever given to the press for the young star's dismissal, and

in fact, the whole incident appears to have been hushed up.

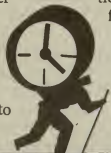
Rumors about Kirk, however, persisted at the studio. When he returned for six weeks in 1965 to film *The Monkey's Uncle*, a sequel to *Merlin Jones*, the experience was painful. "I was very uncomfortable," he said, "knowing that [my co-workers] were watching me closely."

Kirk went on to make a number of forgettable beach party movies for other studios, as well as a few horror films, but by the end of the decade his movie career was essentially over. Around the same time, he developed a drug habit that left him financially ruined and nearly killed him.

After several desperate years, Kirk managed to turn his life around and get off drugs. In the mid-1970s, he left show business altogether and started a carpet-cleaning business in Los Angeles. "I've done it for 20 years and I live well," he said in 1993. "I have a nice business, a nice pension, and friends."

More recently, Kirk has returned to occasional acting in small-budget, campy horror flicks like *Attack of the 60-Foot Centerfold* (1995) and *Club Dead* (2000). But with Disney's latter-day gay-friendliness, who knows what the future holds for Kirk's acting career? A new *Merlin Jones* movie may be just around the corner. ▼

Rawley Grau has won four Vice Versa Awards for his writing on gay and lesbian culture. He can be reached at GayNestor@aol.com. For more Past Out, visit www.planetout.com.



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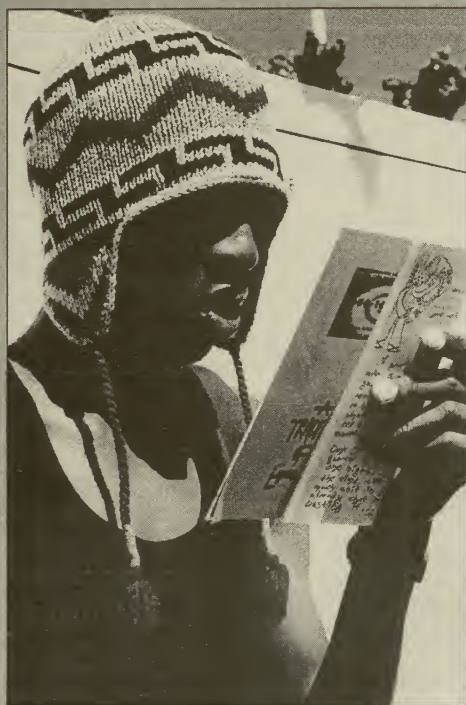
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Queer and homeless



L awerance Sears, a San Francisco queer youth, reads from a book of essays at a memorial to homeless people who have died in San Francisco. The memorial was in Civic Center Plaza earlier this week and was set up by homeless advocates, who called attention to the 1,767 people who have died on city streets in the past 14 years. Sears is a participant in LGBTQ programs offered at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center.

Jane Philomena Cleland

POLITICS

An early look at 2003 mayoral race

by Wayne Friday

An interesting story in Sunday's *San Francisco Chronicle* about Mayor **Willie Brown** included the comment that he was getting on with the new Board of Supervisors "about as well as could be expected," leaving it to the readers to interpret the statement as they may. If you were to ask any of the new supes—all of whom ran for office last year on an anti-Brown ticket—you would probably get about the same kind of answer.

What I found more interesting in the *Chron* story about the mayor, however, was his candid assessment of the 2003 mayoral race. Due to term limits, Brown cannot run for another term, so while there likely will be plenty of candidates attempting to succeed him, the mayor mentioned the leading ones and his hand-capping of those candidates was, as is the custom of the mayor, frank, amusing, and to the point. Since the mayor got into the guessing game early, allow this column to do the same.

Brown pretty much dismissed former Supervisor **Angela Alioto** as someone who always talks about running for mayor, but also as someone unable to put together a winning candidacy. Brown quickly mentioned state Senator **John Burton**, who happens to be in his last term, as one who will "have a lot of IOUs to collect if he runs," and few would likely disagree. Indeed, Burton and the mayor are longtime friends and most feel that Brown would get behind a Burton candidacy in a minute, though the mayor is much too smart to say so this early in the game. True, Senator Burton is powerful—very powerful—particularly among the political insiders, but not exactly the most popular personality in the political world. In fact, in years of writing about politics in this paper I've heard some pretty interesting stories about Burton's personality (or lack of one) and of the political enemies he has made. Burton always runs well but that, in part, is because he has lacked a strong opponent in any of his races for office.

Brown, in the *Chron* story, also said that former Mayor **Art Agnos** is "a good bet to try again" for the office he lost to **Frank Jordan** a few years back. Art Agnos? A good guy, and likely to run, but not likely to win, I'd say. Former Supervisor **Barbara Kaufman**? She reportedly is always telling people she wants to be mayor, but lacking really strong name identification, and currently without an office/political platform to campaign from, she, too, is not considered a good bet to reach Room 200. In fact, I'd probably rate Kaufman's chances a tad below those of Agnos. Supervisor **Gavin Newsom**? Again, I'm constantly told the wealthy, popular, young supervisor wants to be mayor, but the Democratic powers that be (read: Burton and company) are likely to redraw the 12th Assembly District in such a fashion as to make it easier for Newsom to re-

place the soon-to-be-terminated **Kevin Shelley**, thereby eliminating a possible mayoral opponent for Burton. City Treasurer **Susan Leal**? Brown's mention of her as a possible mayoral candidate surprises many. Leal is a good public servant, but not thought to be among the top candidates to succeed Brown. Board of Supervisors President **Tom Ammiano** also was mentioned by the mayor as a likely candidate.

Brown's candid assessment of **Clint Reilly** as a mayoral candidate was probably the most realistic. Brown: "Clint Reilly is certainly going to be in there, to run fourth again." I agree with Brown on that one. I also agree that Supervisor **Le-land Yee**, as a prominent Chinese American candidate, could well be a formidable candidate for mayor, assuming he isn't elected to the 12th Assembly District. (Yes, I fully understand that Yee and Newsom can't both be elected to that seat.)

The mayor, a political wizard if ever there was one, also said that Assemblywoman **Carole Migden**, like Shelley, serving her final Assembly term, due to term limits, could be a very credible candidate for mayor should she enter the race. Migden is one of the hardest working, most qualified public servants I know, and, yes, I think she would make an exceptional mayor. One name that I notice Brown failed to mention (unintentionally, I'm sure) is District Attorney **Terence Hallinan**. The controversial D.A. is reportedly telling anyone who will listen that he hopes to ride a successful prosecution of the tragic dog mauling case (assuming it becomes a successful prosecution, that is—remember **Joe Freitas**?) into a run for the mayor's office in 2003. Hell, Kayo did beat **Bill Fazio** by an impressive 1,700 vote "landslide" after four questionable years in office, didn't he? Too early to start thinking about the 2003 mayoral race, you say? Brown apparently doesn't think so; neither do I. So, stay tuned—this one certainly will be fun.

Politics and people

Speaking of upcoming elections, the race for public defender is still over a year and a half away and many city voters last week already received a slick, four-page campaign brochure from wannabe Public Defender **Jeff Adachi**. Never mind where the big bucks came from to pay for this expensive mailer, but note some of the names Adachi lists as endorsers: former Public Defender **Jeff Brown** (not that surprising, I guess), City Attorney **Louise Renne** (this one surprises me), Supervisors **Tom Ammiano** and **Matt Gonzalez**, former D.A. **Arlo Smith**, and a host of prominent attorneys like **John Keker**, **Nanci Clarence**, **Tony Serra**, and **Ephraim Margolin**. However, the endorsement prompting the most political gossip calls over the weekend (I received at least half a dozen on this one) was the one from District 11 Supervisor **Gerardo Sandoval**—the Adachi piece ran Sandoval's photo with this

quote: "The voters are sick and tired of machine politics; they threw the bums out in the Supervisors' race. They will do the same in the Public Defender's race." Say what? I don't know Public Defender **Kimiko Burton** that well, but I spent years working at the Hall of Justice while she was there as a deputy public defender and I saw her in court often. I can further tell you that nearly everyone—judges, prosecutors, and the like—considers Ms. Burton a talented lawyer, a worthy courtroom opponent, and all saw her as a respected young woman. As for Sandoval, I don't know the guy at all, but I do know this rookie politician has got a lot to learn about San Francisco politics; calling John Burton's daughter a "bum" is not smart. Not smart at all.

Meanwhile, District 10 Supervisor **Sophie Maxwell** will be appearing at the March 20 Gray Panthers meeting, 12:30-3 p.m., at the First Unitarian Church, 1187 Geary, to discuss family health care, housing, low-cost prescription drugs, and other issues that primarily affect senior citizens, though all are welcome (567-5348 for info).

And you can put Supervisor **Mark Leno**'s name at the top of those likely to be running to succeed Assemblywoman **Carole Migden** in the 13th Assembly District; Leno is very definitely "considering" the Assembly race in next year's March primary.

My last—absolutely final—comments on the "stolen" Florida presidential election. Since **George W. Bush** and his supporters made so much of the news from the *Miami Herald* that Bush likely still won the Miami-Dade County election—by a pitiful 147 votes—"I'm delighted," Bush said, when told a couple of weeks ago) maybe some enterprising reporter will ask the president at his next press conference how he feels about the news this week from the *Palm Beach Post* that **Al Gore** would have gained 784 more votes in Palm Beach County than Bush if all the marks next to their names had been counted. But, the county canvassing board did not count the 5,736 ballots that the *Post* found had marks for Gore or Bush. Indeed, without those ballots, Gore still gained 174 votes in the county's 10-day recount completed November 26. However, the county missed a deadline to complete its recount and so those Gore gains did not count in Bush's certified 537-vote state victory. Overall, the Palm Beach County vote was never even close; Gore easily won the county (not including the uncounted 5,736 votes) by a margin of 270,233 to 153,278. Clearly, Gore legally won Florida—and the presidency. History will record that George W. Bush was chosen president by the U.S. Supreme Court, and not by the 100,000,000-plus Americans who voted November 7.

Senators **John McCain** (R-Arizona) and **Russ Feingold** (D-Wisconsin) brought their traveling campaign finance reform road show to San Francisco Monday, appearing at a sold-out noon crowd at the Commonwealth Club. And yes, McCain deserves a bit of the credit for the current Bush White House after more than a year of telling us that

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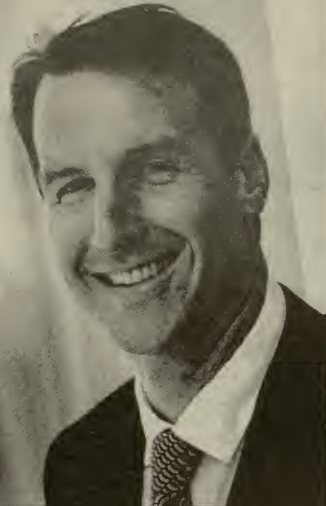
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Women's Museum has a long way to go

by Paula Martinac

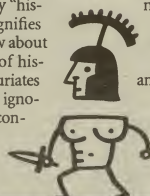
Not long ago, conservative commentators made a huge deal about the fact that students at leading universities performed poorly on a multiple-choice history quiz asking them (among other things) to identify the British general defeated at Yorktown (Answer: Cornwallis). It's amazing that in the 21st century "historical literacy" still signifies how much people know about white men. One type of historical illiteracy that infuriates me is continued public ignorance about the many contributions lesbians and gay men have made to society and culture.

A few years back, I wrote a book about lesbian and gay historic sites, and in my travels I found that most history museums scrupulously ignore the "L" and "G" words. Many, in fact, go out of their way to straighten up famous Americans. At the Emily Dickinson Homestead in Amherst, Massachusetts, some determined curator actually touched up a print of the only known photo of the poet so that she would look more traditionally "feminine." Tour guides at the site steered clear of the intense relationship between Dickinson and her sister-in-law, Sue Gilbert, focusing instead on the poet's male "suitors."

Things haven't changed much since I finished that research in 1997. Look at the Women's Museum: An Institute for the Future, which opened in Dallas in late 2000 with the aim of showcasing the history of women across five centuries. It fails to mention the lesbianism or bisexuality of any of the women in its exhibits, even those whose sexual history is well known, like anthropologist Margaret Mead and journalist Dorothy Thompson. The content director for the Women's Museum told *Salon.com* that even the most carefully worded references to same-sex relationships were axed

from the exhibits for fear of alienating the Dallas community.

It's these distortions and lies by omission that have spurred lesbians and gay men to write their own history, and queer scholars like George Chauncey, Martin Duberman, Lillian Faderman, and others have been doing that for several decades. At the same time, because people need a record of the physical past to make history more tangible, lesbian and gay archives have also sprung up across the country to act as caretakers of the documents and artifacts of the queer past.



Lesbian Notions

The next step from archives is public exhibits.

In New York City in 1994, the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall riots, community historians put together an exhibit about lesbian and gay life called "Becoming Visible," which opened at the New York Public Library, later toured other cities, and was adapted into illustrated book form in 2000. The exhibit was an absorbing tribute to lesbian and gay survival and resistance in New York City. I found myself pointing at posters from the 1970s and saying, "I remember that!" For the first time, I could locate my own experiences as a lesbian-feminist in the pageant of American history.

So I was happy to learn that a committee is raising money and drawing up plans for a splashy International Museum of Gay and Lesbian History, which will give permanency to the record of lesbian and gay lives. The museum began as an online collection of virtual exhibits (www.gaymuseum.org) in 1996, and just last year launched a \$30 million capital campaign to build a physical space. Around 2004, the committee expects to select the museum's host city (Los Angeles, New York, or San Francisco), and in 2010, it hopes to break ground for a building.

The advisory board includes prominent academics and noted community historians, like Susan Stryker, co-author of *Gay by the*

Bay, a history of San Francisco. The proposed galleries maintain an admirable balance between the different experiences of men and women, white people and queers of color. And notably, the project includes a proposed expansion of the Web site exhibits for those unable to travel to the actual museum because of distance or expense — an important consideration.

Obviously, a grand international queer museum is an important idea. It's vital to educate the public about how lesbians and gay men made history on Christopher and Castro Streets, forging a powerful civil rights movement from a small band of activists.

Once it gets under way, though, the museum could make an even bigger contribution by going a step further and offering technical assistance to lesbian and gay activists around the country — not just in major cities — in planning regional queer history exhibits. These exhibits might take place at local museums and libraries, which could be approached for space and support.

Even better would be building a network of small queer museums like the many one-room historical societies that dot the country. As important as Stonewall is to our history, how we lived day to day in small cities like Pittsburgh or on the ranches of Montana or in the rural areas of Iowa is equally important. ▼

Paula Martinac can be reached
 care of this publication or at
LNcolumn@aol.com.

Our Man Friday

◀ previous page

Dubya "couldn't be trusted" to lead this country.

In Washington, D.C., the notoriously anti-gay Attorney General John Ashcroft is now "reaching out" and revealing a somewhat softer side to past political opponents. Interesting, Ashcroft's February 22 meeting with the Log Cabin Republicans, a conservative gay group, was called a "good beginning" by Log Cabin spokesman Kevin Ivers, who urged gays and lesbians to forget about Ashcroft's disgracefully vicious and unsuccessful attempt to kill longtime gay civil rights activist James Hormel's nomination as ambassador in the late 1990s. Ivers said that's all "in the past," suggesting that all is forgiven as long as the new A.G. gives the gay Republicans the valued face time with personal appearances before the group. Another meeting with the Congressional Black Caucus members reportedly didn't go quite so well for Ashcroft; apparently that group wasn't so eager to suck up to the new Bush attorney general.

And while this was probably meant for the desk of those clever guys who write our Out There column, someone from H'wood sent me a press release saying that Showtime has ordered 20 more episodes of its controversial series *Queer as Folk*, about a group of gay people in Pittsburgh. Nope, I've never seen the show, but I'm sure those who watch it in the Castro bars will be pleased.

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Bristol-Myers is next local drug target

by John Iversen

Riding on the success of their recent "Stop Medical Apartheid" demonstration at Berkeley's Bayer Corporation, local activists have set their sights on Bristol-Myers Squibb. BMS is one of the major players in the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association's lawsuit against Nelson Mandela and the South African government. At stake is whether South Africans will have access to d4T (Zerit), which the Indian company Cipla wants to sell for \$40 annually per person versus the present BMS price of \$1,000.

Marla Rusicka, of Global Exchange, said activists will picket the BMS-sponsored gala reception of the National AIDS Update Conference in San Francisco this Wednesday, March 21. "We will be asking conference attendees to

boycott the event due to Bristol-Myers' unconscionable behavior preventing South Africans from being able to take d4T."

Rusicka pointed out that BMS can easily afford not to enter the African market which only accounts for 1.3 percent of all pharmaceutical profits. "In 1999 BMS' profits were \$4.2 billion, nearly the same as all U.S. airlines combined. BMS stockholders had a whopping 48 percent return on equity. Of 1999 revenues, BMS spent 24 percent on marketing and administration, 20 percent for stockholders, and only 9 percent on research and development. And much of that research is 'market research.'" Rusicka was responding to pharmaceutical claims that they need to charge high prices to fund research. "Much of the research for BMS' AIDS drugs was done by Yale University, the National Institutes of Health, and the Michigan Can-

cer Foundation." Indeed the NIH filed suit against BMS last December to recoup \$9 million in royalties.

Yale University owns the patent on d4T and receives \$40 million annually in royalties from BMS. This arrangement has come under attack by Yale students and the inventor of d4T himself, Professor William Prusoff.

Prusoff, 80, who also receives BMS royalties, has said he would forgo them in Africa and join any student campaign to force down prices of drugs in the Third World. "I wish they [BMS] would either supply the drug for free or allow India and Brazil to produce it cheaply for underdeveloped countries. But the problem is the big drug houses are not altruistic organizations. Their only purpose is to make money."

Doctors Without Borders has officially asked Yale to step in and

force BMS to permit generic versions of d4T. Yale graduate Mike Berkowitz, who is an aide to Berkeley Vice Mayor Maudelle Shirek, said he "will work diligently to contact alumni about this issue and put pressure on Yale's administration. Yale must use its considerable influence to force Bristol-Myers to release exclusive rights in South Africa."

Survive AIDS member Michael Lauro, who was born in New Haven, promises a buoyant, colorful, and noisy picket of the BMS-sponsored gala. "It's time

for U.S. AIDS workers to examine their relationships with pharmaceutical firms responsible for unimaginable death and suffering in Africa. We hope they will boycott this event," Lauro said.

The picket begins at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 21 at the War Memorial Building, 401 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco. For more information call Survive AIDS at (415) 252-9200 or Global Exchange at (415) 255-0796. ▼

Anti-medical apartheid movement grows

by John Iversen

The practices of major pharmaceutical firms in Africa took a few more hits on Monday, March 12.

The Red Cross, the Reverend Jesse Jackson, and the South African ambassador to the U.S. weighed into the fray. In London the International Red Cross released a blistering statement. "The current system of allocating resources and development and of pricing life-saving drugs needs to change because it leaves out at least 30 million people who are dying from infectious diseases every year," said Alvaro Bemejo, health director of the international disaster relief organization.

Bemejo supported South African moves to produce or import cheap generic AIDS drugs and criticized present efforts. "What we are seeing today is a piecemeal approach between a number of governments and pharmaceutical companies brokered by UNAIDS. This is a first step, but not enough. It certainly should not be seen as a way forward."

In Washington, D.C., nearly 500 people marched from the South African Embassy to the headquarters of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association.

At issue was the PMA lawsuit against Nelson Mandela and the South African government. The PMA lawsuit, filed in February 1998, has forbidden South Africa from producing generic AIDS drugs or importing them at the world's lowest price. That price is now \$347 from an Indian company (ironically named Hetero) versus the Glaxo/Bristol-Myers Squibb price of \$11,000 annually per person. Since the inception of the lawsuit over 400,000 South Africans have died of AIDS.

The demonstrators in Washington were welcomed by South African Ambassador Sheila Sisulu. Other speakers represented Oxfam (the world's largest hunger relief organization), Doctors Without Borders, ACT UP/Philadelphia, and the Gray

Panthers.

In Chicago, Jackson hosted a press conference to call on the PMA to resolve the case. "They are in a very weak position to be arguing for their rights when people are dying. They give the impression that they're willing to sacrifice lives to profit," he said.

Last week the International Chemical, Energy and Mine Workers Union (ICEM) restated its support for South Africa. "We believe that South Africa and other countries have the right to buy appropriate pharmaceuticals at prices they can afford," the union said in a statement. ICEM represents 20 million workers worldwide in the pharmaceutical and chemical industries.

Last week also saw Merck, the largest U.S. pharmaceutical firm, unilaterally drop the price of Crixivan by 90 percent for most developing countries. Merck excluded Brazil by name from the offer as Brazil has raised the ire of drug companies. Brazil produces its own triple therapies and gives them free to all HIV-infected citizens.

Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-California) also reissued her bill to prohibit trade sanctions against South Africa and provide \$25 million in aid. "I truly believe that the AIDS crisis is worse than the bubonic plague. I truly believe that this crisis can wipe out sub-Saharan Africa as we know it today. It is mega in its impact on the world, and I have a very hard time reconciling the position of the pharmaceutical companies with what is happening today," Feinstein said.

In a rather odd move, the World Health Organization released a bold statement on the side of the South African government in the PMA lawsuit. The next day the WHO retracted the statement saying it couldn't take sides in a legal dispute.

In an effort to sort out all the information, Global Exchange and other groups will hold a teach-in on Thursday, March 29 at 7:30 p.m., at Oakland's Java House, 3306 Lakeshore Avenue. The featured speaker will be Mark

Hunter, who just returned from working seven months in South Africa in a province where one in three adults is infected with HIV. For more information, call (415) 255-0796. ▼

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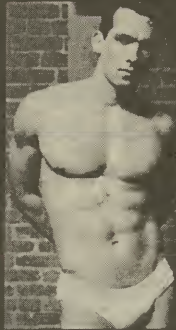
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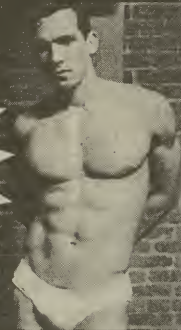
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STD experts want doctors to ask patients about their sexual health

by David Fraser

Physicians need to be more aggressive in asking patients about their sexual health in the wake of outbreaks of syphilis among certain groups of gay and bisexual men in California, local health experts and activists say.

While syphilis might seem minor to people who are HIV-positive or have AIDS, the disease poses a threat to them and to partners who are HIV-negative.

Unsafe sex with a partner who has syphilis boosts the chance of both types of infection.

A recent report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that African Americans face infection rates far higher than those of other U.S. ethnic groups. In 1999, reported rates of primary and secondary syphilis were 30 times higher among African-Americans than among whites.

These figures appeared despite a 10 percent decline in syphilis rates for African Americans from 1998 to 1999, from 16.9 cases to 15.2 cases per 100,000 people, CDC officials said.

"The continued impact of syphilis on African Americans

likely reflects the effects of poverty and lack of access to or use of quality health care services," the report added.

Calls by the *Bay Area Reporter* to the Black Coalition on AIDS in San Francisco requesting comments on the syphilis rates among men of color were not returned.

San Francisco's monthly STD report from the city's Department of Public Health in January reported seven cases of adult syphilis diagnosed in December 2000, up from two in December 1999. The city's 2000 total was 157 cases, versus 126 the previous year.

Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, director of STD Prevention and Control Services at DPH, said responsibility for helping prevent or treat syphilis should be shared among patients, doctors, and health workers.

Ask, ask, ask

"Physicians can ask patients their sexual orientation, about their sexual practices, and where they meet their sexual partners," Klausner told the *B.A.R.* in a written statement. "We know that persons who have anonymous sexual partners and meet partners at sex clubs in San Francisco are among the highest risk for syphilis. We



Dr. Jeffrey Klausner

have been seeing several cases a month come out of well-known sex clubs in San Francisco.

"Health workers can educate the community about the importance of 'coming out' to their provider and making sure they discuss with their provider their sexual orientation and behavior. People should know that an important measure of a good doctor is one who asks a patient his or her sexual orientation, makes no assumptions, is non-judgmental, and asks about their sexual behavior.

"Doctors who do not ask are not following years of federal, state, and local recommendations, nor what is recommended in every medical school. I teach at UCSF School of Medicine that every medical visit should incorporate some assessment of sexual health," Klausner added.

From Klausner's point of view,

"Syphilis increases in a community, any community, are markers of the failure of the public health system and prevention efforts. Syphilis is a preventable disease.

"Syphilis increases are important markers of increases in unsafe sexual activity which could lead to increases in other STDs including HIV. Syphilis infection increases the viral load in persons with HIV infection and increases the risk of HIV transmission among those uninfected."

Patient efforts

James Nguyen of the Stop AIDS Project points out that doctors often encounter patients who are unwilling to talk, or talk honestly, about their sexual behavior.

For example, said Nguyen, the organization's communications director, "often, Latino men find it hard to talk about their sexuality. If the patients are not comfortable talking with doctors honestly, [STDs] are hard to diagnose."

Stop AIDS conducted a campaign a couple of years ago specifically targeting Latino men. Many ethnic and other groups have similar cultural taboos against discussing sexual issues.

Overall, Nguyen said, his group looks at "how to have an open, honest dialogue with at-risk men." The organization's volunteers talk with around 7,000 men a year in "open, frank discussions about sex."

The group's new Web-based outreach program is a powerful way of educating people about STDs amid a growing population of men who find dates via the In-

ternet, Nguyen said. It was started with a grant from DPH.

A 1999 syphilis outbreak in San Francisco had been traced to men who dated after meeting via chat rooms online.

Knockout chance

Recent publicity provides an opportunity "to deal syphilis a knockout blow," said Dan Wohlfeiler, a Bay Area public health specialist. "We'd like doctors to be on the lookout for syphilis symptoms - syphilis is often confused with herpes. If doctors are at all concerned about the possibility [of syphilis], they should be testing. Doctors are very busy but it doesn't take very long."

Wohlfeiler is chief of the policy and communications unit at the STD Control Branch of the California Department of Health Services.

Recent outbreaks in Los Angeles attracted "a ton of media attention," he said. "It's ironic that it got so much attention, maybe because it's new there."

He said the disease appears in cycles, mostly in the southeastern United States where there's often a combination of poverty and poor public health.

"It's an entrenched epidemic in the southeast," he added.

Often syphilis occurs in populations that are hard to reach, which can lead to increased infection rates. The Southern California outbreak put syphilis back on

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Syphilis symptoms

by David Fraser

The following behavioral recommendations and symptoms list for syphilis is from Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, director, STD Prevention and Control Services, San Francisco Department of Public Health.

"To reduce their risk, persons should not only use condoms regularly, but should get regular STD checkups. We recommend that sexually active gay men with new partners get checkups at least twice a year. Physicians should create reminder systems for themselves to assure that their patients get screened for STDs regularly, but the responsibility is not only among doctors.

"Key symptoms include penile or vaginal ulcers, swollen glands, and a body rash that often extends to the hands and soles of the feet.

"Persons should know that often these symptoms go away with no treatment, but that the syphilis germ persists in the body. Syphilis is easily diagnosed with a simple blood test and easily treated with antibiotics. It is curable but only if diagnosed." ▼

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Grand marshals

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dent Bill Clinton, former first lady and New York Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, Danny from MTV's *Real World*, actor John Dye, *Survivor* winner Richard Hatch, civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, the dragapella off-Broadway bound performers the Kinsey Sicks, newspaper columnist Liz Smith, actress Sharon Stone, writer Amy Tan, actress Elizabeth Taylor, and San Francisco film critic Jan Wahl.

Organization nominees for grand marshal are local groups Afro-Solo, the Black Brothers Esteem program of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Breast Cancer Action, Cheer San Francisco, the GLBT Historical Society of Northern California, the Harvey Milk Institute, Larkin Street Youth, Luna Sea, Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services, Laverne Youth Recreation and Information Center, Project Open Hand, Positive Resource Center, Raising Colors, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, and Tenderloin Tessie's Holiday Dinners.

Although all three categories of nominees represent people of achievement, it is the category for individuals that is often closest to our hearts, since individual nominees mostly are local or tied to San Francisco and allow us to put an accessible face on our community.

This year's nominees in the individual category are:

Faisal Alam

It's not often one hears about LGBT Muslims, but thanks to people like Faisal Alam, identifying and giving support to queer people of the Islam faith has become nothing short of a movement.

Alam was 20 years old in 1998 when he organized the first International Retreat for GLBT Muslims and then founded Al-Fatihah, an international organization dedicated to LGBTQ Muslims and their friends based out of Washington, D.C. The nonprofit now has seven chapters in three countries and involves the participation of hundreds of people.

Alam is the youngest member of the National Religious Leadership Roundtable, was an active youth participant at the United States Conference on AIDS, and has been a featured speaker at many LGBT events, including the Millennium March on Washington.

"I'm honored to have been nominated," said Alam. "Creating visibility is the key to breaking down the oppressions and ostracization that our communities face. I'm honored to represent various communities that have helped shape the work that I do today."

Patrick Califia-Rice

For a long time, Patrick Califia-Rice has challenged not just mainstream America but the entire queer world to reevaluate its gen-

der and sexual politics. The San Francisco trans man, gay father, renowned leather author, and visionary writer has deep roots in the LGBT community, from his groundbreaking fiction like *Doing it for Daddy* and *Macho Shits* when he was known as Pat Califia, to his early AIDS advocacy, to his recent public transition from female to male and subsequent columns about his unique family life.

"It's an encouraging sign that transgender issues are taken seriously as part of the queer agenda," said Califia-Rice of the number of trans-identified grand marshal nominees, adding that he was "very surprised" by his own nomination.

"With writing comes an activist component that is often not recognized," he said. "I feel very honored."

Duane Cramer

AIDS activist and photographer Duane Cramer seems to bring commitment to new levels. The San Francisco resident and Names Project board member recently took a social service leave of absence from his job at Xerox in order to work with the AIDS memorial quilt and to give HIV education to communities of color. The African American HIV-positive activist has met with school teachers and officials across the United States to discuss HIV prevention, has delivered HIV prevention lessons to high school students nationwide, and last year served on the board of the Millennium March on Washington.

As an artist, Cramer's photos have been published locally and internationally and run the gamut from photojournalism to fashion, capturing the faces of gays and lesbians, people of color, and people affected by HIV/AIDS.

Veronika Cauley

She made history in 1997 as San Francisco's (and perhaps the country's) first openly transgender city commissioner, and still sits in one of the women's seats of the Veterans Affairs Commission. But Veronika Cauley hasn't remained silent in her achievement, rather, she has used her visibility to propel transgender rights into the forefront.

"This is the year of the transgender," said Cauley of her nomination. "I am absolutely thrilled that five of us are up for grand marshal, and I'm excited to be in such good company."

Cauley has most recently been working with the San Francisco Sheriff's Department to move transgendered people from the jail in San Bruno to the city, where she conducts esteem building and outreach with them and has paved the way for other transgenderers to do so as well. Her agency, the Transgender AIDS Advocacy Advancement Peer Project, is about to become incorporated as a nonprofit, and with that she hopes to empower trans people with an organization just for them.

Chili D (Diane Felix)

At any dyke social event worth attending, she's been there, spinning Salsa and Meringue beats as DJ Chili D at parties such as Chula and Backstreet. When it comes to queer Latin events, there's no dance floor without her; she is after all the founder of the longest running Latin dance club, Colors.

Yet in Chili D's other life as Diane Felix, she is just as influential; co-founding San Francisco's first gay Latino/a organization in 1975, and later founding and directing Proyecto Contra Sida, the cutting edge AIDS outreach organization providing information and services to Spanish-speaking communities.

Felix just recently stepped down as executive director of Proyecto Contra Sida, but her AIDS activism will continue, both on and off the dance floor (it's not rare for her to donate her spinning services to charitable parties).

"I am honored to represent our communities," said Felix of her nomination, "especially queer Chicana Latinas."

Russell Davies

He was the first person to present the radical notion that perhaps not all gay characters on television need to be portrayed in an ultra-positive light, for it is the mark of progress that allows LGBT representations to be complex rather than bland.

Whatever one thinks of taking a teenager home to bed, the British launch of *Queer as Folk*, which featured the deflowering of young Nathan to the much older Stuart, was a smash, and we all have Russell Davies to thank for it.

Born in South Wales in 1963, Davies became a full-time writer in 1994, sneaking all sorts of gay innuendoes into prime time shows until he was given the opportunity to make these plots center stage. While the American version of *QAF* cannot hold a candle to the original, the show at the very least is one that allows queers to have relationships, and that, in this day and age, is still priceless.

Felicia Elizondo

She caused quite a stir when she appeared in the groundbreaking "HIV Stops With Me" advertising campaign that aired last year, an effort aimed at preventing HIV infection in the Bay Area's LGBT communities.

Felicia Elizondo, a male-to-female transsexual who learned she was HIV-positive in 1987, bravely loaned her face and body to the campaign as a way to personalize the virus, declare her commitment to keep her partners safe, and help to end the spread of AIDS. The commercial has since been nominated for a GLAAD advertising award.

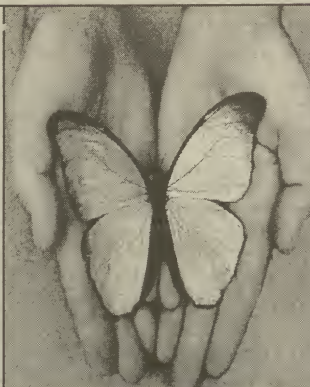
Elizondo's commitment to HIV activism doesn't end with show business however; she is the activities and events coordinator for Shanti, a San Francisco HIV/AIDS

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service organization where she has worked for over three years. She has made 68 panels of the AIDS memorial quilt to honor the lives of all the otherwise forgotten people that she met while working at Project Open Hand. She has raised funds for various HIV/AIDS organizations, and volunteered for the Folsom and Castro Street fairs. Last year, Shanti honored her at its 25 year anniversary with the "Testimony of Spirit" award recognizing her contributions to the community.

"I'm a caregiver," said Elizondo. "I don't have money but I can give a lot of time to help people in need."

Linda Evans

When activism was activism, it was a loud revolution demanding justice for all people, a broad coalition of voices that included queers and other minorities united against human rights violations, and a series of inter-related movements that at their heart held a few key people, including San Francisco resident Linda Evans.

Despite our "land of the free" mantra, it remains a dangerous thing to challenge the United States government, and Evans was arrested in 1985 under federal conspiracy charges for her civil disobedience, militant actions against government property, and the help she gave to a fugitive friend. She was sentenced to over 40 years in prison and spent the last several years at the federal correctional facility in Dublin. President Bill Clinton commuted her sentence in January, and she was freed after serving 15 years.

Never one to remain silent, Evans founded an AIDS peer education program inside prison and began work toward a graduate degree in global economics. She has already been spotted at

several Bay Area civil rights events this year, working for justice on behalf of other political prisoners.

"I am honored and thrilled at the nomination. This will be the very first Pride march I've ever been able to attend because I was locked up in prison or underground for the last 20 years," said Evans. "It will be a wonderful way to celebrate my freedom and to remember all the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender prisoners who can't celebrate with us."

Christian de la Huerta

Every LGBT lifestyle needs its role models, but the queer spiritual world too often tends to root itself in one religion over another. Christian de la Huerta, the founder of the San Francisco-based international group Q-Spirit and the author of the much-acclaimed *Coming Out Spiritually*, sees it differently, and focuses on getting LGBT people to recognize and reclaim their spiritual value.

De la Huerta is a passionate believer that gays and lesbians are among those chosen as catalysts for today's society, and that LGBT people are the crux of all spiritual movements, and he has been saying so for quite some time. His weekly radio program SpiritWave has allowed gays to deal with everyday issues like sex, money, and politics from a spiritual standpoint, thereby offering a spiritual world without judgment to the very people who need it most.

Cleve Jones

By now many of us have come to take it for granted that the largest quilt in the world exists to remember all the people lost to AIDS. But the process of creating, developing, organizing, sewing, publicizing, directing, and continuing

the quilt originally came from one man: Cleve Jones. It was during the Harvey Milk memorial march in 1985 when Jones asked participants to write down the names of loved ones who died of AIDS and post them on the side of San Francisco's federal building. Suddenly, and unwittingly, Jones realized he was staring at panels of a quilt, and he imagined them spread out along the National Mall. There are now 49 chapters of the Names Project throughout the United States, and the quilt keeps growing.

Mark Leno

One of the few incumbents re-elected to the Board of Supervisors last December, Mark Leno's recent accomplishments are numerous and varied, from the creation of a medical marijuana identification card for people with HIV/AIDS and other debilitating illnesses, to the funding for a queer youth shelter, to the establishment of a transgender rights task force to ensure implementation of nondiscrimination laws.

A 24-year resident of San Francisco, his community involvement has included serving on the advisory boards of the San Francisco Foundation and Horizons Foundation; serving as an organizer for the Small Business Forum; leading the fight against Proposition 22, the Knight initiative; fundraising for the LGBT Community Center; and challenging the homophobic blood donation ban.

One of two openly gay supervisors on the current board, Leno currently chairs the Finance Committee, which oversees the city budget. He is pleased to be a part of the sampling of LGBT leaders up for grand marshal.

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China removes homosexuality from list of mental illnesses

by David Fraser

Fifty to 100 million gay people in China – give or take – just got a bit of a reprieve.

Trouble is, most of them probably don't know it, and the vast majority likely would deny the label anyway.

The Chinese Psychiatric Association has just announced that it is removing homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses. The move follows years of quiet efforts in a country whose politics and culture tend to be strongly homophobic. It also reflects relatively open scientific collaboration and encouragement from foreign organizations such as the American Psychiatric Association, which "demedicalized" most forms of homosexuality in its disorders list in 1973.

It took the United States quite a while to reach that degree of professional tolerance. The World Health Organization removed homosexuality from its disorders list in 1993; Japan followed suit in 1995, according to a March 8 As-

sociated Press report.

China's health ministry estimates the gay male population alone at 30 to 40 million, and those figures are likely low.

Despite the report's appearance in major U.S. media, it has been little remarked. Its appearance in the heavily government-controlled Chinese print media would indicate at least acquiescence by high officials in the Communist Party.

Media quiet

Locally, there's been scant coverage in the Chinese media. The editor of a major Chinese newspaper, *Sing Tao Daily*, said they had heard nothing. At KPST, a Chinese television station in San Francisco, news director Cathy Chiang Williams said she had not heard the report but would plan to do a segment on it.

Experts in the U.S. praised the move but also said the revised view should be put into a Chinese political and cultural context.

For one thing, the notion of gay – much less queer – identity in China is only beginning to come

to the surface. China has a rich literary tradition depicting homosexual activity, but, as in many cultures, it's not something widely talked about.

"Being gay is a non-issue for most Chinese people ... as long as your son or daughter isn't," said researcher and gay-affirmation advocate Eryan Lin, who has pressed for revision through low-key activism and publication at the Washington, D.C.-area Chinese Society for the Study of Sexual Minorities (www.csssm.org).

Nonetheless, Lin added, "CPA's demedicalization announcement is a big deal. It's pretty big news."

"The gay population poses no political threat, and its influence is very limited," said Lin. "The gay community in China is very quiet in its demands: if they come out, they don't want to be fired, they don't want to be kicked out of university."

"If you look at the Chinese gay request for human rights, these are basic living rights only: food, housing, etc. These are the same as with most people and they're parallel and consistent with human rights as defined by the government and mainstream people."

Gay awareness?

But given broad societal pressures, it's extremely difficult for most Chinese to come out as gay. The very notion of a gay identity is problematic, said Wenqing Kang, a doctoral student in history at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Before the 19th and 20th centuries, said Kang, who researches sex and gender in China, there was little notion of "homosexuality."

"The classification comes mostly from modern and Western science," he said. "There were men who 'hao nan se' – were fond of sex with men – but in the pre-modern period, pretty much all guys got married. To be a filial son makes you marry. You have to be a father, have a son. Sex with other men was okay as long as you met that obligation. Chinese people didn't identify themselves in sexual terms."

Deep cultural values like family continuity change slowly in China. Even under Mao's authoritarian reforms, many values were just suppressed or shelved as politics required. Marriage pressures continued under Mao, Kang said, because usually to get a apartment you needed to marry.

Isolation and harassment

For closeted gays in China, life has been and is often lonely and isolated. "When gay people in China go outside, they don't say 'We are gay,'" said Liang Jing, a South Bay resident from China who is a pre-op transgender. "Society doesn't recognize their existence."

Today, Western observers, including those of Chinese origin, point to a modestly flourishing gay "scene" – bars, couples living together – in major Chinese cities as evidence of broader acceptance. The Internet's gay chat rooms and Web sites are cited as evidence of change.

But, especially in rural areas, there is little parole from the closet.

There is enormous pressure to conform and a huge threat of stigma when outed.

Dr. Edward Lee is a psychiatry resident and gay man of Chinese origin who lives in the Bay Area. "People are telling me things in China are not so supportive as some westerners might think. Looking from a Chinese background, from culture and family, those [new] standards are not going to change things soon. They won't necessarily affect cultural values, especially."

Lee agrees that CPA's stance is positive. "You can see that if a gay person is dealing with depression or anxiety which may be unrelated to their sexual orientation, they may now be more willing to go for help. Now they can go to a clinician and not have it assumed that all those problems stem from their homosexuality."

Police and prejudice

Especially under Communist rule, China has considered homosexual desire as a social evil, and people seeking medical help often have faced the "solution" of shock therapy.

San Francisco immigration attorney Steve Baughman sees the CPA decision as "a moderate leap forward, something all people with social consciences should be happy about."

"But," added Baughman, who speaks fluent Chinese, "I wouldn't overstate the report's effect in the trenches, in the *paichuso* [local police stations]. People carry their prejudices into the workplace. Look, day to day, gays in China take a calculated risk. You wanna be open, if you go to a cafe on the Bund [Shanghai's Embarcadero], you're probably okay for now. The problem is when the political winds change. The party still runs the show. The court system is totally bankrupt, there's no redress against homophobic powerholders."

On the question of political asylum for gay Chinese, Baughman said the Immigration and Naturalization Service tends in San Francisco to be favorably disposed. "Undoubtedly there are officers around the country who will use the CPA stance as a hook to hang a rejection hat on. I think San Francisco asylum officers know better than to make a big deal about it."

Medicine and politics

The politics of medicine concerns Scott Long, the New York-based programs director for the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission.

"The effect [of demedicalization] depends on how likely people are to run into psychiatric issues," said Long. "Everywhere there's a huge potential for repression in psychiatry and psychology. They're normative; they help people adjust to social norms. In China, the CPA has voluntarily deprived itself of a weapon that up to now has been used to re-model people by the state."

The state role in the CPA announcement is being debated. Lin sees the group as relatively autonomous, but Kang stresses the ties between academia and the party-state in Beijing. He sees the timing as important: "China's joining the World Trade Organization, and bidding for the Olympics. Beijing is trying to bring things up to international standards." ▼

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OBITUARIES

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Gary L. Lombardo

April 22, 1952 - February 20, 2001

Gary passed away unexpectedly from heart failure while on vacation in Mexico, much too soon for his family and friends. He leaves behind his partner Scott, brothers Joe and Frank, many relatives, and a large family of friends.

Gary was born and raised in Pittsburg, California. He was employed by USS-POSCO for 23 years before retiring. During his life he also lived in San Francisco for 10 years before returning to Pittsburg in the mid 1980s to purchase a home, which he remodeled.

He enjoyed entertaining friends, drinking "Stoli," gardening, traveling, two step and square dancing at clubs throughout the Bay Area. He was a member of Diablo Dancers.

Gary would jokingly say "it's all about me" and "any attention is good attention." Gary had a great sense of humor, a quick wit, a sharp tongue and a heart of gold. Gary will be deeply missed by all, including his dog Skip.

A celebration of his life will be held on Sunday, March 25, 2001, 2:00 p.m., at the Buchanan Park Community Center, 4150 Harbor St., Pittsburg, California. Gifts in Gary's memory to the charity of your choice are welcome.

Steve Meikle

June 17, 1948 — March 1, 2001



Steve Meikle died peacefully in his sleep ending a brave, valiant struggle with a chronic genetic illness. Steve dealt with his medical problems with grace and a sense of humor.

As a child Steve discovered his talent for art and made hundreds of drawings representing the unique way that he saw the universe. After graduating from the Academy of Art College he had numerous successful showings of his work. He was best known for his elaborate photo-realistic pencil drawings representing a surrealistic spiritual world. He worked for his family business, Crescent Electric, in Oakland for more than 30 years. In addition to his drawings he designed and built spectacular lamps, many in the Art Deco style, using whatever inspired him at the time.

He is survived by his father Mike, brother Chris, Uncle Stan, Aunt Jo, cousin JoAnne, and friends Danny, Carl, Brian, Jim and Barbara, Barney and Mary and Jess, Margaret and Al, Annie and Bob, Bill, Brandy, Henry, Squeak and many others. He will be missed deeply by all that knew him. For information on a private celebration of his life, call Danny Williams at (760) 323-4255.

Dennis Michael Ratz

May 22, 1940 — January 15, 2001

The world lost a sweet, gentle, but troubled soul when Dennis ended his life in January. Years of depression and



recent medical problems proved too much for him to handle. Dennis was born in Aurora, Illinois and escaped to San Francisco in 1962. He had a sweet and gentle spirit and was a loyal, delightful friend to those lucky enough to cross his path. He caught the end of the beatnik era, welcomed the hippie generation, and celebrated during the sexual revolution. He also watched in horror as AIDS swept through San Francisco, killing most of his male friends.

Dennis was a gardener for the City of San Francisco until his retirement in 1998. His garden spaces included Union Square, the Conservatory of Flowers, and Alamo Square, where he cultivated his passion for working the earth. Prior to his gardening career, Dennis was an ER nurse and met many wonderful people, many of whom remained close friends until the end.

Dennis is preceded in death by his parents, Tina and Louis Ratz, and his life partner, Glen. Dennis was an only child, but he left behind a very close cousin, Tom, and many dear friends. We all miss him terribly.

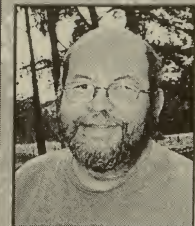
Al Terrazas



At about 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 8, Alonzo "Al" Terrazas passed from this world to the next. Surrounded in his last hours by friends and family, Al is survived by his partner Ricci Santorella, his son Kevin and Kevin's wife Shelly, and Al's daughter Melinda. For details on a remembrance celebration for a man who helped many of us rediscover our own will to live, call Ricci at (415) 701-9208.

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Grand marshals

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"The nominees always reflect great diversity," said Leno. "That is the nature of our community."

Carole Migden

She has been called one of the most powerful, effective lawmakers in Sacramento, and she's earned that reputation by championing the causes of various colleagues and constituents from diverse backgrounds, purposefully representing the underdog and introducing bills that no one else will touch.

Whether it's the recent domestic partnership law that created a bank to which we can add benefits (it now stands at hospital visitation rights and health insurance for state employees but Migden has introduced further legislation to include rights such as inheritance and the ability to sue for wrongful death); her efforts to preserve confidentiality in HIV surveillance; her ability to secure funding for organ transplants for people with HIV/AIDS; or her recent law that prohibited juror discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation; San Francisco's Migden has strategically and successfully put LGBT issues on the permanent radar of the California Legislature.

Dr. Carol Queen

Who doesn't know the good doctor? San Francisco's Dr. Carol Queen – the doctorate is in sexology – is more than a familiar face. The famous writer, editor, activist, and sex educator has empowered people of all identities and professions, from sex workers to gender benders to bisexuals. As a Good Vibrations associate she has taught thousands of lesbians and others how to please themselves and their partners without fear or shame. As an adviser at San Francisco Sex Information, she has ensured that callers' questions are addressed without judgment and with accuracy. As a member of Feminists for Free Expression and

Call Off Your Old Tired Ethics (COYOTE) she has helped advance acceptance for consensual activities that once were frowned upon. And as a contributor to classics like *Switch Hitters* and *Best American Erotica*, she has given us all something to dream about.

"Mama" Sandy Reinhardt

If there's a fundraiser or AIDS benefit happening within the leather community, you can bet that Mama Reinhardt is behind it. Reinhardt has long been active with the AIDS Emergency Fund, and was instrumental in raising \$24,000 for AEF's Breast Cancer Emergency Fund, which will soon be providing grants to women with the debilitating illness. Reinhardt also is in charge of San Francisco's Leather Walk, an annual benefit for people with HIV/AIDS.

"It's very exciting," said Reinhardt of her nomination. "I'm overwhelmed."

Dana Rivers

There aren't a lot of people who have the courage to sacrifice the privacy of their pain in order to make things better for others. But when Dana Rivers, an award-winning teacher in Antelope, California, was fired for transitioning from male to female on the job, she took her case to activist circles and attached her face to the fight for the rights of all transgenders.

It was 1999 when Rivers an-

nounced to the school board that she would be returning to Center High School as a woman. At first she was supported, but when a parent complained, the board voted to dismiss her. She sued, and the case was settled out of court.

"I'm grateful to the sons of bitches that fired me," she once told the media. "What happened to me is a microcosm of what happens to transgendered people every day around the world."

Rivers helped to educate the naive public about the difference between gender and sexuality with appearances on *20/20* and *Good Morning America*. She has also spoken at numerous events and has fought for gender-inclusive non-discrimination legislation at the local and national levels. Rivers was recently named to the board of the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network.

Theresa Sparks

Last month she became the third openly transgendered city commissioner, and the first ever to sit on San Francisco's Human Rights Commission.

Theresa Sparks is a trans woman, a member of the Transgender Civil Rights Implementation Task Force, and a founding member of the Transgender Political Caucus, and an advocate for not only transgender rights but for queer economic empowerment and progressive issues that deal with race and class. ▼

WeHo nixes condoms

by Liz Highleyman

On Tuesday, March 6, voters in West Hollywood rejected a ballot measure that would have required bars and other businesses to make free condoms available to their clientele; the vote failed by a 3-2 margin.

Measure A would have required businesses that make

"more than half of their revenue from the sale of alcohol for on-site consumption" to offer free condoms and safer sex educational materials. An estimated 150 bars, clubs, restaurants, and hotels would have been affected, and at least 500,000 condoms would have been distributed per year.

The city already has a voluntary condom distribution program tar-

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Boom town

Lesbian boxer Gina Guidi gets in the ring

by Jim Provenzano

A few blocks from the Fruitvale BART station, across the railroad tracks that twist through Oakland, in a small garage on a tiny street, King's Gym hosts half a dozen boxers of various sizes and races.

Around them, filling every wall are photos and posters of boxers both famous and obscure, glistening sweat, robed or shirtless, a colorful collage monument to a rare sport.

Mixed in between the de la Hoyas, Camachos and Mancinis are posters, photos, and news articles featuring Gina "Boom Boom" Guidi, who trains here.

One of few women there, Guidi also happens to be the only currently competing out of the closet athlete in the sport.

Although the gym may daunt the untrained, Guidi is welcomed and welcomes others, including the gym's owner, Charles King, as we sit and talk in the weight training area. Behind us, a buzzer rings off three-minute rounds for whoever is shadow-boxing. Ever-present is the thumpa-thumpa-thumpa of a punching bag.

Punk punches

"I got involved in boxing through the Police Athletic League," Guidi said of her Bay Area roots in the sport. "It used to be down at 14th and Mission at the Armory."

When Guidi and her brother, Mark, heard of a free karate program for kids under 17, the street-tough youths were eager to join. But upon witnessing the formality of classroom formality, "We knew this was not for us."

Elsewhere in the Armory, they heard the rhythmic sound of punching bags, where they met Rio Rosa — still Guidi's current trainer — and Angel Rodriguez, one of the Bay Area's first women boxers, and a world champion at the time.

"They were all jumping rope to music that we liked," Guidi said. "We asked if it was free too, and they said yeah, so we joined." They had found their second home.

"We were looking for something to be a part of," she said. "We were tired of running around, smoking, cutting classes, just being lazy punks. Boxing was an avenue that worked for me."

While some lesbian or gay youth take up combat sports out of self-defense, for Guidi, it was simply fate. "It happened because it was supposed to, and at the right time."

With a dearth of female opponents, the young Guidi mostly sparred with boys, occasionally picking up a few hundred dollars fighting in "smokers."

Guidi explains: "People come into smoky bars and clock each other. This lady would bring me in there and I'd just knock women out. They were leather-clad, Harley-Davidson-driving legends in their own mind, so to speak."

"I had such a Clark Kent look, I wore glasses and would take them off as I went in. They would take a look at me, and go, 'Her?'" then belly up to the bar, start slamm'n' screwdrivers or whatever, then get in the ring with me and 'boom.'" Guidi fought in smokers for about a year, until it became more difficult to find clubs open to such bouts.

Still under 21, she found bout opportunities rare, but managed to score a dozen knockout amateur victories. As an amateur, she won the 1995 USA Box Offs in California in addition to a Golden Gloves Championship, and held a total amateur record of 12-0-9 KOs. "I mostly stayed in the gym. When the Armory closed down, I moved over to Shields & Pittman, then to King's Gym, where I've been ever since."

"You couldn't advance back then. You couldn't have a national competition for women. That didn't start until two years ago. So, I figured, 'What the hell? I might as well turn pro.'"

At age 35, she did just that, and currently boasts a 15-1-1 record. She won the North American Super welterweight title in September 1995 against Leah Mellinger of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. In 1997 Guidi won the Junior Middleweight title against Do-a Webber in a match televised from Biloxi, Mississippi, by ESPN. Guidi remains the IFBA female Junior Middleweight champion of the world. Her next bout, March 25, will be with Kelly Whaley.

Bam bam

Boxing is the stuff of myth, legend, and brutal reality.

"A lot of other women turned pro and probably shouldn't because they didn't have any experience at all," Guidi said. "It's hard work, and people can get hurt. I've been fortunate in my career not to have seen too many people get seriously injured. Actually, I've seen



Gina "Boom Boom" Guidi at King's Gym in Oakland

more people injured after they quit boxing; drugs, car accidents, all kinds of ugly things that happen to unfortunate people."

Are too many boxers deluded into thinking they can "make it big?"

"There's a huge misconception in society that leads people to believe that you can become a world-class fighter, that you're gonna be a millionaire, because of what they see on television. The truth of the matter is there are very few people that ever make it anywhere close to that level."

"Obviously managers and trainers aren't going to share that information. They want you to box."

They want to see how far they can take you. Every trainer has the dream of a champion that's gonna fall into their lap. I'm gonna raise you, and we're gonna make it together. The whole time — 15 years — that I've been coming to this gym, there were maybe three guys that have a chance at true stardom in the sport. The reality is, you get in the ring, you get hit, and you know if you can't deal with that, you go the other way."

So what keeps her going back into the ring?

"It is not fun," she admitted. "I will not lie to you. But I do love to get out a good combination. After all that hard work, you get in there and, 'Bam! Bam! Bam!' It's all going the way you want, and you look over at your corner and they shout, 'You did it!'"

"I also like the training, the extended family that boxing gives me. The people are very caring and warm. For the most part they accept you for who you are. They don't want anything from you. That's a beautiful thing."

Out in a bout

Does Guidi feel a sense of responsibility or pride in being the only out lesbian in the sport?

"I think it's very important how I represent myself in both communities," she said. "I try to stay on top of it. I don't always hold myself together as nicely as I'd like to in a cute little package, but I have learned how to deal with things on a more mature level, not on a boxer's level. You can't manhandle everything that makes you uncomfortable. You can't say, 'Put the gloves on' for something the press may say about you."

Despite a number of gay athletes saying how they've improved after coming out, Guidi sees more closeting in her sport.

"I've never been closeted," she said. "I just don't think it's necessary. There are so many lesbian boxers, and they're all in the closet. It's sad."

"There's also the management

aspect. Some of these people are being handled by people who say, 'Don't do it. You'll miss out on endorsements.' But being Italian, and always being out there about my sexuality, I can't imagine why someone would want to do that."

Both Guidi and her (straight) brother Mark went on to win medals in the first Gay Games in San Francisco in 1982. "It was a blast."

Why hasn't boxing been included in recent or future Gay Games?

"We trained for the next one," Guidi said. "It came up, and we went to the board meeting and they said it was no longer a competitive sport in the gay community. We said, 'You haven't been to the bars lately! They didn't think that was very funny, but we tried to petition, but they said there wasn't enough interest. I think they would be seriously wrong now. Boxing is huge, especially with women. The guys would come back, and it would be easy to get teams.'"

Some critics charge that problems of blood-related contagion are among the unspoken deterrents, but Guidi is quick to respond.

"With professional boxing, you have to take HIV and hepatitis B blood tests. I don't know why that would be a problem."

Brass in pocket

In such a small but growing athletic area, arranging a fight requires some basics.

"I get on the phone or the Internet and go through a list of the top 10 women and see if they'll fight me," Guidi explained. "Kelly Whaley is the only woman who will fight me without a title being fought. A title fight pays better. You're fighting for a trophy."

What does she hope to do with the next bout in Hayward against Whaley?

"I look at this fight as a warm-up. Kelly, although she has a losing record, it's because she's gotten in the ring with some of the toughest fighters out there. So it's not a lack of skill. She may not have the power. She also hasn't stayed consistent in one weight class, which is not always a smart thing to do. You don't get a real good sense of yourself and what you're able to do."

Other future bouts may include a rematch with New Mexico's Trina Ortegon.

One problem is getting bouts in Europe.

"The WIBF [Women's International Boxing Federation] is based out of Florida, most of their champions are Europeans," Guidi said. "I called up and told them I had somebody to pay the sanctioning fees for me to go over to Poland and fight the Polish world champion. She won't fight me."

next page ►

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◀ previous page

They need to strip her of her belt, because I'm ranked in the top 10, but she won't fight me."

The French champion also won't fight Guidi.

"Also, the WIBF is in the hip pocket of the promoter in Europe, who puts on most of the women's fights," she said. "There's a lot of politics, a lot of palm-greasing. Everybody knows about it. It's just not talked about."

A long-term goal for Guidi includes boxing at Madison Square Garden, "because it's New York, with the history and all." Women and men more often compete on the same bill. "It depends on whose hands hold the money."

The 20-squared

Despite those limitations, Guidi continues to grow fans of all kinds, and encourages people to train "as a great way to get in shape," not just as a form of self-defense or competitive sport.

"I've found a huge following among women boxers," she said. "It's exciting. It can be a little taxing sometimes. I wish I could be a Joe Schmoe and not have people recognize me, but that's when I'm feeling insecure, not at the top of my game. I try and take responsibility for who I am, to promote the sport in a positive light."

Despite the welcoming atmosphere at both her gym and among fans, Guidi does get a bit of name-calling at weigh-ins, particularly in the deep South, even in New Jersey.

"Just because it's a gambling town, like Atlantic City, don't let it fool you," Guidi said of certain encounters where their image and her Puerto Rican manager's race became cause for affronts with the locals. "We'll walk in and hear, 'Dykes,' or whatever. I turn and smile, and kill 'em with kindness. I do my job in the 20-squared."

Despite having potential weapons as limbs, Guidi refrains from comparing pugilists to brawlers, or returning to her barroom fight days. "Why would we lower ourselves to people who are so ignorant?"

She's also quick to refute the stereotype of boxers being more violent outside the ring.

"I find that when kids develop more confidence and strength in their body and spirit, they avoid that kind of thing, rather than duke it out. I don't know of any kid from here who has gone out and used boxing in a negative way."

I don't know if it's because you get centered here, or because you're too damn tired!"

But while breaking down one stereotype, she doesn't get much chance to battle another stereotype, that of the felled-up Hollywood 'lady boxer.'

"The glamour boxers," Guidi calls them, and reserves a special name for Mia St. John; "the Velour pussycat of boxing." Heavily promoted boxers hide their limited technique in bouts with much weaker opponents. This is known as "sandbagging."

"It's so annoying. She gets so much press, and it's crappy."

Several of the high-profile women boxers, including Laila Ali, daughter of Mohammed Ali, refused matches with Guidi, perhaps knowing full well that their title belts would soon become a memory.

"I guess I'll have to put on high heels and a Tina Turner wig," she joked.

Guidi hasn't bothered to see any of the many women boxing movies recently released.

"I don't have the desire to see them," she said. "I don't know what started the chain reaction of boxing films. Theirs are fantasy dramas." Guidi didn't even like *Raging Bull*.

Although Guidi herself is the subject of an acclaimed short film, Laura Plotkin's *Red Rain*, which was shown several times in the Bay Area, she doesn't enjoy watching other boxers for pleasure or study.

"They don't fight anything like they do on tape. It's who they're against that determines their style."

She also prefers to avoid focusing on the "meaningless things. I try to walk in mindfulness."

She points to the ring. "This is where it happens for me." ▼

Big Palooka Promotions presents Brawl at the Hall II, five bouts of professional boxing, featuring "Irish" Pat Lawlor vs. Abez Bey, Gina "Boom Boom" Guidi vs. Kelly Whaley, Martha Salazar vs. Denise Callahan, Danny Chavez vs. Gilbert "Hurricane" Jackson, and a fifth fight to be announced. Sunday, March 25 at 5 p.m. (doors open at 3:30) at Centennial Hall in Hayward, CA. Admission is \$40 open seating. Credit cards accepted. Call (510) 481-9300. Info: <http://www.bigpalooka.com>. For more information on ordering a copy of *Red Rain*, visit <http://www.lolafilms.net>.

STD experts

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the public radar screen, giving health care providers a chance to act more directly.

"In the Southern California outbreak," Wohlfeiler said, "a lot of men were HIV-positive and receiving care. They were regularly getting treatment, which means there's an obvious way to reach them. We'd like doctors, nurses, and other health care providers to

1) assess patient risk, not assuming people are either safe or unsafe, and 2) counsel them about [sexual] behavior.

"Syphilis may not seem like a big deal, particularly to people who are positive," Wohlfeiler said. But, he added, echoing Klausner's remarks, "it's important to realize that if you have syphilis, it's much easier to transmit or acquire HIV, for example through cankers."

He also urged health professionals to integrate testing for HIV and STDs. ▼

tices among younger gay men."

Weinstein attributed Measure A's defeat to a "scare campaign" and an "underlying prudishness," and said he believed opponents felt the measure would "put sexuality in people's faces." Some who opposed the ballot initiative claimed that the existing voluntary program was sufficient, and objected to the distribution of condoms in places patronized by families. ▼

WeHo condoms

◀ page 17

getting gay bars, cafes, and bookstores. However, the AIDS Healthcare Foundation spent \$150,000 promoting the ballot measure because the voluntary program had "failed," according to AHP President Michael Weinstein. Said Weinstein, "There has been a frightening loss of vigilance in safer sex prac-

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO. 246627

The following person(s) are doing business as: TasteWine, 155 Eureka Street #2, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Jennifer Elias and Ray Johnson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, February 08, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/08/01.

FEB. 22, MAR 1, 8, 15, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 246683

The following person(s) are doing business as: Chef Neil, 435 Utah Street #1, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Neil Dean Geller. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, February 04, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/12/01.

FEB. 22, MAR 1, 8, 15, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 246694

The following person(s) are doing business as: Look Of Love, Hair Nail Salon, 3903-18th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Glap, Pham-H. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, February 12, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/12/01.

FEB. 22, MAR 1, 8, 15, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 246707

The following person(s) are doing business as: Zhu's Gardening, 145 Girard Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by an individual signed Hua Wan Zhu. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, February 13, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/13/01.

FEB. 22, MAR 1, 8, 15, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 246706

The following person(s) are doing business as: Lei's Hardwood Floor Refinishing, 39 Edinburgh Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed 21 Ran Lei. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, February 13, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/13/01.

FEB. 22, MAR 1, 8, 15, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 246839

The following person(s) are doing business as: Geneva Pub, 1196 Geneva Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Kil S. Kirkpatrick. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/20/01.

FEB. 22, MAR 1, 8, 15, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 246924

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MAR 1, 8, 15, 22, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 246917

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MAR 1, 8, 15, 22, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247011

The following person(s) are doing business as: Variety Modern Video Film, 168 Design Group, One Six Eight Design Group, One Union Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94111. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Richard Costello. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, January 1, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/26/01.

MAR 8, 15, 22, 29, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247007

The following person(s) are doing business as: Donut World, 5401 Geary Blvd. San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by an individual signed Kimsan Cheng. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, February 26, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/26/01.

MAR 8, 15, 22, 29, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247080

The following person(s) are doing business as: W.M.S. Express, Western Attorney Services, Transbay Express, Western Messenger Service Inc. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Raymond R. Crosetti. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, August 20, 1979. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/28/01.

MAR 8, 15, 22, 29, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247080

The following person(s) are doing business as: W.M.S. Express, Western Attorney Services, Transbay Express, Western Messenger Service Inc. 75 Columbia Square, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Raymond R. Crosetti. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, August 20, 1979. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/28/01.

MAR 8, 15, 22, 29, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247050

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cremeria Jalisco, 2969-24th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Priscilla L. Aung. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/27/01.

MAR 8, 15, 22, 29, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 319270

In the Matter of the Application of Brandi Renee Beigel, For change of Name. The application of Brandi Renee Beigel, for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Brandi Renee Beigel has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Brandi Rachel Page. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 30th day of April, 2001 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAR. 8, 15, 22, 29, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 319040

In the Matter of the Application of Michael Richard Cooney, For change of Name. The application of Michael Richard Cooney, for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Michael Richard Cooney, has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Michael Zarien Mancarti. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 23rd day of April, 2001 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAR. 8, 15, 22, 29, 2001

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To Whom It May Concern: The Name(s) of the Application is: Gochez Gina Marie, Maia Taylor Azevedo, Silva Rogerio Marcos. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 823 Clement Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. Type of license Applied for: 41-ON SALE GENERAL EATING PLACE
DATE: MAR. 8, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247204

The following person(s) are doing business as: California First Mortgage Co. 445 Baker Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Howard Louis Gaddy. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, March 6, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/06/01.

MAR 15, 22, 29, APR 5, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247197

The following person(s) are doing business as: Time For Flowers & Gifts, 50 Persia Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Cherrie Maxwell. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, March 1, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/06/01.

MAR 15, 22, 29, APR 5, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 246999

The following person(s) are doing business as: Rockworks Productions, Inc. Rockworks Management, Rockworks Publishing, Rockworks Records. 1175 Ellis Street, Apt. #C309, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Terry J. Smith, President. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, February 26, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/26/01.

MAR 15, 22, 29, APR 5, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247207

The following person(s) are doing business as: Mylene's Hair Salon, 4008 24th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Mylene Carol. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, March 2, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/06/01.

MAR 15, 22, 29, APR 5, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 319408

In the Matter of the Application of Matthew Lawrence Ross, For change of Name. The application of Matthew Lawrence Ross, for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Matthew Lawrence Ross has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Matthew Shelton Ross. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 3rd day of May, 2001 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAR. 15, 22, 29, APR. 5, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 319057

In the Matter of the Application of Teri Gyl Spivey, For change of Name. The application of Teri Gyl Spivey, for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Teri Gyl Spivey has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Grace Spivey-Gyl Templeton. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 23rd day of April, 2001 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAR. 15, 22, 29, APR. 5, 2001

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO. 0221434

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Rockworks Productions, Terrytons Music Publishing, 5700 3rd Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: March 18, 1998. This business was conducted by: an individual: Terry James Smith

MAR. 15, 22, 29, APR. 5, 2001

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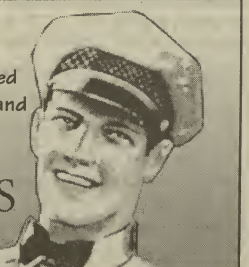
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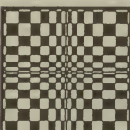
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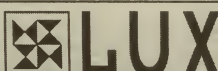
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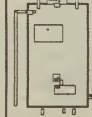
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Tuning in to 'All My Arteries'
'Vice' President Dick Cheney's angioplasty,
school shootings in 'The Lavender Tube.'

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An affinity for absinthe
Toulouse-Lautrec and
others at Legion of Honor.

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Intimate poetics
A new biography of
Rimbaud appears.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 31 • No. 11 • 15 March 2001

Fun in boys' shorts

**'Boys to Men'
is a fourway
at the Castro**

by David Lamble

The program *Boys to Men*, opening Friday at the Castro Theatre, while not the best shorts collection in recent years, demonstrates why many of us are so hooked on this peculiarly gay film genre. The heroes (and sometimes heroines) are met on the fly, like the best of cheap dates. They're intriguing, sexy but not very complicated. They spill their guts to us in the first few minutes, and are gone before it's time to clean up the mess. Boy-shorts characters, unlike their kissing cousins the soap tarts, give us a delicious sample of life's highs and lows, without leaving us with the bad habit of having to stay in touch.

In the opening film *Crush*, filmmaker Phillip Bartell gives us the almost-

too-sweet tale of teens trapped for the summer in the most boring town in America. Sixteen-year-old Robbie (Brett Chukerman) is clerking in a woman's dress shop in beautiful downtown Carthage, Illinois, just one jump ahead of his reputation as a teen fag in the booming metropolis of Springfield. Robbie and 12-year-old Tina (Ema A. Tuennerman) quickly bond around their addiction to a WB-like teen show.

Bartell provides an insight into the formation of one life's most perplexing and least understood characters: the fag hag. Tina's puppy-love addiction to squeaky clean, slightly older boys like Robbie is hopeless, of course, because it mirrors Robbie's own infatuation with boys like himself. Bartell

page 36 ►



The short film *Just Is* a cautionary tale.

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

by Roberto Friedman
and Pete the Press

We don't understand all the fuss being made about those nasty Taliban in Afghanistan destroying those nice Giant Buddha statues. Isn't this just one of those faith-based initiatives our own Resident Bushy is so wild about?

There's more than one double standard going on now, during the new reactionary ascendancy. But here's one to add to the growing list: Why come this protective "hands-off" policy over Bushy twins Jenna and Barbara?

Comedy Central TV series *That's My Bush* has already had to abandon all references to the First Family twins in the alleged comedy by *South Park* producers Trey Parker and Matt Stone. Hasn't anyone told them that defanged, declawed, and neutered satire is what closes on Saturday night?

OK, a proposed script did portray the 19-year-old Bushy twins as incestuous lesbian lovers. Does heartstopping jefe Dick Cheney got a problem with that? Anyway, the idea was quickly scuttled.

We hate to break it to those delicate flowers of the GOP, but the velvet gloves may have already come off. Last week *Salon* reported, "Until now, President Bush's family had avoided humiliating him in the public arena, but that could be changing. Jenna Bush, one of the president's twin daughters, traveled with her Secret Service guards to fetch a boozed-up buddy from jail earlier this week. The youth, William Bridges, reportedly told his jailers that he was Jenna Bush's boyfriend. The White House won't comment on the incident."

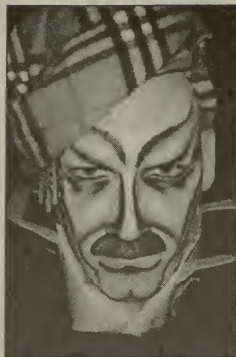
Like father, like loser alcoholic boyfriend? We don't remember Chelsea ever coming close to embarrassing us like this.

Send him off

It's time to say, "Happy trails" to the one and only Ggreg Taylor, who moves on to a new life in swinging London come Monday. Taylor's final *Ggoing Away* party happens this Saturday night, March 17, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. at the Eagle Tavern. It's free.

Cronies from the good old days of Club Uranus, Queer Nation, Boy with Arms Akimbo

Out There



Ggreg Taylor: moving to London



Russell Crowe in 1991's *Proof*

and other ggroups Ggreg's been part of should by all means show up. You'll forgive him for not sending out formal invitations, but "I've touched a lot of people over the years," Taylor says, and he's rather busy packing gear.

We could recite a long list at this point of local celebs, lifer bohemians, and jus' regular guys who have fled San Francisco for ggreener pastures in recent days, but it would be *molto* depressing. Will the last one to leave Convention City please turn out the lights — that is, if we're not already caught in a rolling blackout.

As the Crowe flies

It's that time of year when the popular press is stuffed to the gullet with advance hype on the Academy Awards — er, actually the *SF Chronicle* has run these thumbsucking pieces beginning on Feb. 13, the very day this year's nominations were announced, and has barely paused for breath since. Who will win, who should win, whose dress will rip, zzzzzzz.

Out There feels the need to do a little pre-emptive take-down on the man it is generally assumed will take home Best Actor, Aussie beefsteak Russell Crowe. MSNBC says Crowe is "backpedaling from some potentially embarrassing comments he made about [Oscar winner] Jodie Foster," and if there's any potential embarrassment to be had, OT readers want to know.

"The actor, who sings in a band called 30 Odd Foot of Grunts, wrote a song called 'Other Ways of Speaking' that he last year

told an Aussie radio station was inspired by Foster, who[m] he was said to be dating. 'It's about meeting someone that you think that [you] could easily fall in love with,' Crowe told the radio station. 'But they, ah, they in fact play for a different team.'"

At the time, Foster's spokeswoman snapped to reporters, "Playing for a different team" could mean a lot of things. "Er right, and Jodie could be a Daughter of the American Revolution."

In a recent puff-up in the *NY Times* ("Russell Crowe's Special Brand of Masculinity"), we further learned that "under the stage name Russ Le Rog, [Crowe] recorded a song called 'I Want to Be like Marlon Brando.'" Also, Crowe appeared onstage in *The Rocky Horror Show* in Australia, "where as Dr. Frank N. Furter he donned fishnets and heels for more than 400 performances."

Asked by the British press about the homoerotic subtext in his 1992 film *Romper Stomper* (which follows a gang of neo-Nazis), Crowe replied, "Well, you'd know more about that, mate, being English."

The *British Film Institute* magazine got back in kind by referring to the actor, who reportedly has the habit of shouting out his own name during sex, as "Russell 'Go Russ' Crowe."

Scoring Italians

We know who we want to win the only Oscar we really care about, namely the little gold phallic statuette for best motion picture score. We're rooting for none other than five-time nominee Ennio Morricone, whose music for director Giuseppe Tornatore's *Malena* transports us body and soul to Sicily whenever we pop it in the music box.



Morricone has graced the films of Hollywood moviemakers like Brian De Palma, John Carpenter, Warren Beatty and Oliver Stone, but his Italian filmography is even more extensive, beginning with the Spaghetti Westerns of Sergio Leone, but including scores for such directors as Pier Paolo Pasolini, Bernardo Bertolucci and Dario Argento. We think he should get an award just for putting up with that collection of egos, but the *Malena* score is his ticket to the gold.

While we're on this Oscar rant, another great overlooked category,

the Oscar for short films, gets some overdue exposure beginning this weekend, March 17-18, as the Roxie Cinema starts a series of Noon matinees featuring this year's Oscar-nominated shorts, both live-action and animated. Out There hasn't screened them, but the list of titles is intriguing: from *Uma Historia de Futebol* (a film by Brazil's Paulo Machline) to *Rejected* (by US animator Don Hertzfeldt). For information, call the Roxie at 415-863-1087.

Trivial pursuit

Last week's issue of *Frontiers* had the fun, fun, fun idea of an Oscar trivia contest — but at least five of their answers were wrong, wrong, wrong.

No. 5: "Name the only husband and wife team to be nominated in the same year."

Frontiers' answer: Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor (for *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* in 1966.)



Richard Burton and Liz Taylor

Correct answer: At least three husbands and wives were nominated in the same year. In addition to the Burtons, Alfred Lunt and Lynne Fontanne for *The Guardsman* (1931-1932), and Rex Harrison for *Cleopatra* and then-wife Rachel Roberts for *This Sporting Life* (1963).

No. 17: "Name the five actors (male) who have two Oscars for leading roles."

Correct answer: Six actors fit this category. *Frontiers* omitted Frederic March, who won in 1931-1932 for *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (in a tie with Wallace Beery for *The Champ*) and again in 1946 for *The Best Years of Our Lives*.

No. 18: "A whopping nine actresses have won two (at least) Oscars for leading roles. Name them."

Correct answer: A whopping ten actresses fit this category. *Frontiers* omitted Olivia de Havilland, who won for *To Each His Own* (1946) and *The Heiress* (1949).

No. 25: "Three times, three actors from the one movie have been nominated in the best supporting actor category. Name the movies."

Correct answer: Assuming "actor" is generic and includes "actress" (as implied in No. 17), this has happened four times. *Frontiers* omitted Diane Cilento, Edith Evans, and Joyce Redman, all nominated for best supporting actress in 1963 for *Tom Jones*.

No. 38: "Only one best picture-winning film won all the Oscars for which it was nominated. Name the film and the number of awards it won."

This is really a nit. *Frontiers'* answer is *Gigi* (1958), with nine awards. However, *Grand Hotel* won the 1931-32 Best Picture award — the only category it was nominated in. Therefore, it "won all the Oscars for which it was nominated." ▼

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'The 3hree Musketeers' sprawls in San Jose

by Richard Dodds

The *Three Musketeers* seems like such natural source material for a musical that it's surprising to realize only one Broadway musical has been based on the Alexander Dumas story — and that was way back in 1928. Rudolf Friml, the king of the operettas, provided the music, and it was to be his last success. Tastes were changing.

The American Musical Theatre of San Jose has helped develop a new musical version of the swash-buckling tale, and it fully expects it to see life after San Jose. Maybe even on Broadway. But it may be too late, for once again, tastes are a-changing.

The 3hree Musketeers (as it has been annoyingly retitled) falls somewhere between *Les Misérables* and *The Scarlet Pimpernel* in style, but Broadway has been losing its taste for the costume-drama pop-operas that dominated the scene for so long. Even if *The 3hree Musketeers* were a first-rate example of the style, Broadway audiences are now embracing

such throwback musical comedies as *The Full Monty* and the adaptation of Mel Brooks' *The Producers*.

What's on the sprawling stage of the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts is an ambitious rendering of the story. Perhaps too ambitious, for in the desire to tell as much of the Dumas story as possible, the tighter focuses necessary to create dramatic epiphanies in musical theater can't be achieved. The second act does work better in librettist Peter Raby's treatment, after the array of characters and their allegiances has been established.

Composer George Stiles displays melodic abilities, but too often the music sounds like unmemorable second-tier material in a Frank Wildhorn score. While lyricist Paul Leigh manages some clever word-play, most of the songs meld together into a pleasant mush.

Director Dianna Shuster has also let an ambitious vision compromise the results with unnecessary and distracting directorial curlicues. The masked buskers of a *commedia dell'arte*-style prologue are carried into the produc-

tion as silent observers and pirouetting scenery-movers whose frilly caperings undercut the musical's only truly moving moment. And John B. Wilson's set, a symphony in brown, is more Dickensian than Dumasian.

Musketeer wannabe

Though Dumas called his 1843 novel *Les Trois Mousquetaires*, it's really the story of the would-be fourth musketeer D'Artagnan that is at the forefront. Jim Stanek, as the rural innocent who soon proves himself adept at Paris intrigues, is a charming presence who finds hints of humanity in a largely cardboard-cutout world.

As D'Artagnan's beloved Constance, Sutton Foster has the spunk and voice that belie her prior work as Eponine in *Les Misérables*. A shrill voice detracts from Rachel deBenedet's otherwise strong work as the scheming Milady de Winter. Christian Borle has a quirky energy that works for Planchet, D'Artagnan's opportunistic servant who proves his mettle in the end. And as the three title characters, Alton Fitzgerald

Robert Mammana, Jim Stanek, and Fred Inkley in *The 3hree Musketeers*

White, Fred Inkley, and Robert Mammana are solid professionals who are offstage a surprising amount of the time.

Let's give the American Musical Theatre of San Jose credit for putting its resources into developing a new work. (The lobby signboard for the well-worn coming season proves how important this

mission is.) If *The 3hree Musketeers* follows safe formulas, at least the ingredients are fresh. ▼

The 3hree Musketeers will run at the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts through March 25. Tickets are \$40-\$60. Call (888) 455-SHOW.

Fast ride in a big machine

MTT, Abbado conduct SF Symphony

by Philip Campbell

It has been *déjà vu* all over again in recent weeks at Davies Symphony Hall. In March 1999, Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas returned from hiatus to mark his territory anew with some stunning Stravinsky. This year he came back from a triumphant transcontinental tour to poach on repertoire more closely associated with his predecessor Herbert Blomstedt.

Roberto Abbado also returned to the podium, after his successful SFS debut in 1999 when he conducted Rossini's *Stabat Mater*. His second turn at the baton was less satisfying, but the nephew of the more famous Claudio Abbado still shows confidence, and he remains a welcome addition to the rotating guest roster.

Conductor Laureate Blomstedt will be back again, too, for his annual visit next week, but we won't beat this recurring memory business to death — it is more interesting to contrast MTT's Bruckner style with the older maestro's much-praised approach.

The last time we heard the Bruckner Symphony No. 6 at Davies was October 1990, and Blomstedt proved then that a lifetime with this music had given him an almost mystical grasp of a problematical composer's language. He recorded the work with his San Francisco forces, for London. It would still be worth hunting down that performance in the second-hand shops to hear how an insightful conductor can balance discipline with spiritual fervor to greatly moving effect.

One might have predicted that MTT would take an altogether less ruminative approach. He retained Blomstedt's analytical view of the big picture, but refused to dawdle, and while the results were perhaps less emotionally satisfying, the fast

ride in a big machine was undeniably thrilling. It also gave our fearless leader a chance to beat his sometimes ungainly horn section into almost military drill. Tilson Thomas has been shaping the orchestra to his standards from the start, and now that he is clearly focusing on the brass, it won't be long before the fine-tuning is complete.

The Bruckner Sixth under MTT sounds an awful lot like early Mahler, and considering how closely attuned the conductor is to that composer, the resulting sound is tight, bright and dramatic. The orchestra played very well indeed, allowing for atmosphere when needed, but never losing thrusting impulse. There was no hint of Brucknerian ponderousness, but I confess to slightly preferring Blomstedt's more imposing sense of vast architectural expanses.

The evening began with *Quartrain* by Colin Matthews, a contemporary composer I can take or leave alone. Tilson Thomas has been championing him since his tenure with the London Symphony Orchestra, and I can see the attraction, but when a score tries to grab attention more by virtue of its sonic size than by attempting to say anything really new, I can only be grateful for the brief duration of the statement. Matthews has written better pieces, and he will write more. MTT will probably also play them.

Special mention must be given to Stephen Paulson's performance that night of Mozart's Bassoon Concerto. Principal Bassoonist with the SFS since 1977, Paulson has forged a remarkable career that has included many solo outings. Employing his own cadenzas with a dexterity and wit comparable with the best jazz improvisers, he made Mozart's youthful masterpiece sound fresh-minted and wonderfully droll. It is a pleasure

to see how well he works with this conductor, and the lusty ovation following his performance proved he is a favorite not only with his audience, but with his fellow musicians as well.



Conductor Roberto Abbado

Italian overtures

Roberto Abbado brings his membership in a great Italian musical family to public view whenever he conducts, and his suave good looks are an asset, too, but he will have to bring meatier fare to the table when he appears next, or the crowds won't keep coming. Actually, there were more than a few empty seats last Friday night, and that was probably due to the interest factor of the program.

It was not that any piece on the bill was without merit. To the contrary, two of the pieces had never been performed by the SFS before, and the third was a marvelously evocative little score by Luciano Berio, one of those modern composers you needn't be afraid of. Still, one of the offerings should have been replaced by something more substantial to make a really satisfying evening.

Cherubini's Symphony in D major was his only essay in the

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Preservation and the New Mission

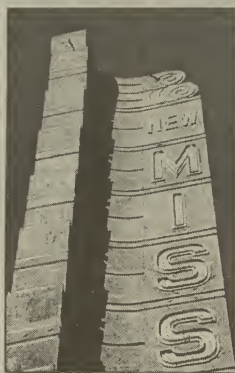
The fate of an architectural treasure

by Jim Van Buskirk

On Mission Street, between 21st and 22nd Streets, a variety of concerned preservationists have been battling City College's plans for a satellite campus. Some say the soul of San Francisco is at stake, its history being bulldozed on behalf of its future. Others say you can't stand in the way of progress.

The Mission, San Francisco's oldest neighborhood, largely spared by the 1906 earthquake and fire, has long been a vital business district, once rivaling that of Market Street. Over the years, the Mission District's former glory may have faded, but it has not disappeared. You see reminders as you traverse its central thoroughfare. Nearly unnoticed, decaying marquees hang from the sides of forlorn buildings, like huge ghosts. They inadequately indicate the former grandeur of the vast interior auditoriums they once advertised: Tower, El Capitan, Grand, Cine Latino, New Mission. They are all that remain of the almost two dozen neighborhood movie houses that existed in the first three decades of the 20th century.

The New Mission Theater was built in 1916 at 2550 Mission Street on the site of the Premium Theater, now considered San Francisco's first theater built exclusively for motion pictures. The Premium became the Idle Hour, which architects James and Merritt Reid, famous for their Fairmont Hotel, later used as the lobby of the huge new theater they designed. Renamed the New Mission by owners Lewis Greenfield and Leon I. Kahn, the theater boasted elaborate features including a 12-piece orchestra, a pipe organ, smoking rooms, several patron and employee lounges, and "free child-care in the adjoining garden playground." Opening night featured Mary Pickford's



Marquee on Mission Street

silent film, *Poor Little Peppina*.

The New Mission has been described as "the most beautiful suburban house in America" and as "one of the finest film houses in the West." Now that the Reid Brothers' New Fillmore has been demolished and their Coliseum heavily altered, the New Mission remains as the best-preserved of their work. The Beaux-Arts building blends the team's trademark classicism with more playful elements, such as a delicate lattice-work dome in the auditorium. In the early '30s, Timothy Pflueger, famous as the architect of the Paramount, Alhambra, and Castro Theaters, was hired to renovate the lobby and facade in more modern style. Pflueger replaced the Reids' facade with a combination of Art Deco elements, adding a sculpted sheet metal parapet and a 70-foot-high swept-blade sign, which was originally illuminated by an elaborate network of neon tubes. Coincidentally, Pflueger also designed much of City College's main campus. A few more "modernizations" of the theater occurred in 1961, and the New Mission Theater continued to operate until May 1993, when it fi-

nally succumbed to the mounting pressures of home VCRs and suburban multiplex chains.

College clashes

In Summer 1998, City College of San Francisco purchased the property and the neighboring Giant Value variety store next door, with plans to build a \$43 million campus to serve 9,000 students. City College's Mission District programs are now operating out a variety of spaces, leased and shared, around the neighborhood. City College officials insist the theater must be demolished in order to create the much-needed new campus of classrooms and laboratories, offices, childcare center, library and resource center, bookstore, cafe, and community meeting space.

Upon learning of the plans to raze the theater, preservationists led by Will Shank and U.B. Morgan formed a grass-roots group calling itself "Save the New Mission Theater." This informal coalition of individual residents, neighborhood organizations, several preservation groups representing many ethnic persuasions, and support from a number of City College faculty, students and alumni, charged that "City College has failed to seek alternatives to destroying part of our cultural heritage." The coalition strongly urged the architects to look at ways to build the facility and still preserve the theater. "This is not a question of programming versus preservation," the impassioned group's literature insists. "It is a matter of City College thinking creatively to save the theater and use it as a resource for the community."

The controversy echoes the one in 1997 when City College presented a plan to tear down the historic Colombo Building in North Beach as well as an adjacent building that housed low-income Asian families, in order to build a new Chinatown campus on the site. Only after District 3 Supervisor



The New Mission's interior: dirty and in disrepair, but remarkably intact.

Aaron Peskin brought suit did City College agree to fully incorporate the Colombo Building into its design, and Peskin dropped his suit.

Under relentless pressure from the Save the New Mission group, City College Chancellor Phillip Day Jr. has agreed to hire Jay Turnbull, whom he considers "one of the most prestigious and highest-regarded preservation architects in San Francisco." Turnbull will "outline a number of preservation alternatives or solutions, and the costs associated with them," Day said. These, he reiterated, would be in addition to the already agreed-upon architectural elements, mostly related to the theater's facade.

Meanwhile, Save the New Mission has hired Alice Carey, another well-regarded preservation architect, to develop a separate set of recommendations. In the meantime, the plan currently calls for demolition of the theater.

Palace dreams

Today, you might easily walk past the cluttered Evermax furniture store without noticing its former identity as a movie palace. As you enter, you pass the obscured box office. In one of the foyer's full-length frames, a card still invites, "Let's go... to the movies." You squeeze through a wide variety of sofas, end tables, and lighting fixtures, wandering deeper into the seemingly endless space. Slowly it dawns on you; you're in the huge lobby of the former movie palace. Looking up, you notice staircases that lead to wrought iron-railed mezzanines, lounges, and finally the balcony. Incredible, you keep going, and finally you peer into the darkness to see a vast room piled high with mattresses. As your eyes adjust, you see that you are in the audito-

rium of a huge 2,800-seat theater. It may be dirty and in sorry disrepair, but it is remarkably intact. Almost all of the changes made since Pflueger's renovations have been deemed reversible.

An ongoing series of lengthy hearings, postponements, and delays by a variety of agencies has frustrated those involved, and still the future remains unforeseeable. Even the building's landmark status remains in limbo. A public hearing, originally scheduled by the Committee of Housing, Transportation and Land Use for March 22, is now rescheduled for April or May. In whatever form, the final project will require both major state and city funding, the latter to be approved by SF voters.

Over the years, San Francisco has lost the fabulous Fox Theater, Playland at the Beach, and many more examples of its rich architectural heritage. Recently, members of the GLBT communities mobilized to preserve the Fallon Building at 1800 Market Street when that Victorian was slated to be demolished to make way for the GLBT Community Center. After a lengthy struggle, a compromise was finally reached which retains the integrity of the Fallon Building. In June, the Friends of 1800 Market Street will be sponsoring *Looking Back and Forward: Significant Places of the GLBT Community*, a two-day symposium, to discuss the role of the community in preservation and design.

Although the preservation group is hopeful, it remains unclear whether or not there's a way to achieve the goals of City College's new facility and still save the New Mission Theater. Referring to the forthcoming reports from Carey and Turnbull, Day says, "Then, if we agree to disagree, we'll know why." ▼



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BOOKS

A tragic, poetic life

Coming to terms with Rimbaud

by Mark Mardon

Many Rimbauds have haunted San Francisco. Once this city was resplendent with Rimbauds reciting fiery, fragmented poems in dingy cafés, drinking and carousing, ingesting all kinds of dope, defecating and puking in alleys on their stumbling way home. The general populace appreciated them for channeling our Bohemian spirit with anarchist fervor and literary zeal. They were our anti-heroes.

Now, in a city that even Beat poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti concedes has succumbed to the sludge of corporate monoculture, Rimbauds are scarcely seen or heard outside of the Haight and a few other select neighborhoods that still make room for wretched visionaries and vagabond geniuses. Who here now even knows who the original Rimbaud was?

To loosely paraphrase and embellish upon the latest, most exciting tome in the always churning Rimbaud-studies industry — Graham Robb's splendid *Rimbaud* (W. W. Norton & Co.) — he was a teen literary terrorist of late 19th-century France who famously sucked up to and came to dominate a married Parisian poet 10 years his senior, Paul Verlaine, who was smitten with the provincial lad's radical verse, tender body, crude habits, irreverent attitudes, and vast, poetic insights into the nature of humanity, himself, and the written word.

Arthur Rimbaud shredded poor Verlaine emotionally, financially, and poetically (not that Verlaine didn't try giving as good as he got), turned poetry on its head, gained ill repute as a sodomite, boozier and home destroyer, crossed paths often with the cops, and alienated every other poet and friend. He abruptly said "fuck you" to poetry at age 19 and went slogging around the Continent and the East Indies, struggling to find work, constantly destitute, suffering countless indignities and hardships. He eventually made his way to mostly uncharted Eastern Africa (Abyssinia/Ethiopia), there to take up trading — of coffee and arms mainly, and possibly of slaves, though Robb takes pains to note that while this latter "commodity" was being heavily traded in the region at the time, and Rimbaud certainly would have had contact with it, no evidence shows Rimbaud's direct involvement.

Under African skies

In his new career Rimbaud persevered and eventually excelled under the harshest imaginable conditions, becoming one of France's most infamous explorers and adventurers, a man of extraordinary cunning and ambition, portrayed by Robb as hard-bitten but fair, often reclusive but engaging and even charming in social circumstances, respectful of and perceptive about his African friends, neighbors, clients, rivals and potential enemies, all of whom in turn respected Rimbaud. Though he complained bitterly of his circumstances in plain-prose letters to his mother and sister, he felt at home under African skies, no matter that his hair had grayed and his skin turned leathery. He emerged a master of the incredibly brutal trading game, constructed of the same outlaw mold (judging from Robb's description) as contemporary American commodities trader Marc Rich, he of the infamous pardon.

Rimbaud, too, was on the lamb — from his pederast past, from scandal, from anything even resembling poetry, from the draft board he kept eluding, from the clammy climate back home, from his implacable mother, from the sheer miserableness of his life. He had been a superior perceiver; alas, others (save Verlaine) did not share his perceptions, nor even understand them. With his radical verse he had tried to be a spiritual seer, but his vision took root too slowly among his poet contemporaries to do him much good; now he would strip away all spirituality, looking reality directly in its hard, cold, unforgiving face. Adventure and cash became his goals.

It's a seamless life Robb vividly portrays, an enormous accomplishment. The great challenge for biographers has been to make sense of Rimbaud despite the distressingly slim documentation of his adult years and the marked difference in personas manifested by Rimbaud in his teens versus his 20s and 30s (he died agonizingly of a cancerous leg at age 37).

Invariably, every biographer comes to the question: Why did Rimbaud give up on poetry? And the answer to that question must serve as the transition from one Rimbaud life to another. Robb's reply (in part): "Rimbaud's interest in his own work ... did not survive the failure of all his adult relationships. ... Without a constant companion, he was writing in a void. ... He might have felt in any

case that his poetry had crossed the limits of communicability and turned into a simple waste of energy."

Starkie contrast

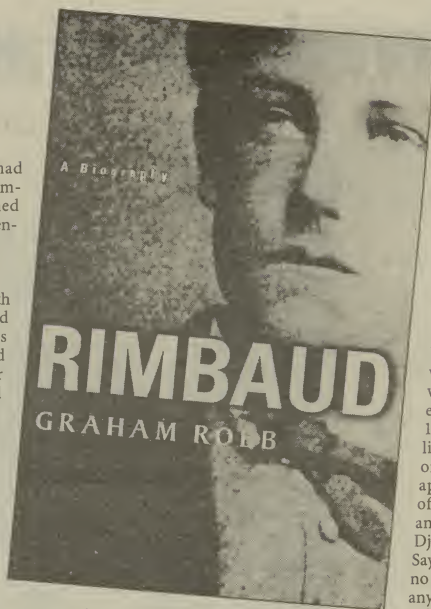
Robb's intimacy with Rimbaud's poetry and the field of poetics shines in this work, and those who most savor textual analysis will feel amply rewarded by the book. But Robb's skills transcend literary interpretation, gripping readers with his delight at historical sleuthing, eagerly filling in gaps with new insights and telling us where other biographers have gone astray. He's particularly harsh on Enid Starkie, one of the first and most famous of Rimbaud's biographers, who cleaned up Rimbaud's image to suit Victorian tastes. Robb is both a master researcher and storyteller, having honed his skills on previous, highly acclaimed biographies of Victor Hugo and Balzac. He displays a poetic sensitivity not only to the vulnerable teen versifier but to the rugged adventurer, telling a well-documented tale sure to hold armchair adventurers in thrall with details of camel caravans, Koranic debates, bloody wars, secretive deals, intolerable climates,

international intrigue, and daring escapades.

A sense of sheer delight at the subject matter pervades Robb's *Rimbaud*. You sense his enthusiasm, and share it. He strips away veils of myth about Rimbaud, who since his death in 1891 has been romanticized to death. Careful not to take too much poetic license (unlike Jeremy Reed's fabulously impressionistic *Delirium*, which goes overboard for a wonderful romp), Robb nonetheless breathes life into Rimbaud and all the remarkable characters in his Dickensian life.

From a queer perspective, one shortcoming of this work, as of all speculations on Rimbaud's life in Africa, is its inability to track Rimbaud's sexuality as a post-poet adventurer. Robb speculates a bit on the relationship of Rimbaud to an Abyssinian woman, Miriam, with whom the trader apparently had a liaison from 1884-86. But any hints of lingering homosexuality on Rimbaud's part — apart from slim evidence of something between him and his long-time servant, Djami — have vanished. Says Robb: "In fact, there is no sign that Rimbaud had any lasting emotional attachment at all after 1886."

While that may be true, the conclusion is unsatisfying. It is difficult to accept that the man who as a teenager flaunted his buggery and wrote poems to the anus now had ceased to be sexual, or at least to take sensual delight in the Abyssinian and Muslim men who constantly surrounded him. Yet Robb, being a responsible scholar, dares not take readers into the realm of speculation, and we must be content for now, until some invaluable, long-lost correspondence turns up to help further demystify Rimbaud, to let Rimbaud remain sexless. ▼



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Symphony

◀ page 27

genre, but it is a rich and beautiful piece with just enough surprises to keep it interesting. Beethoven was reported to have said that Cherubini was the greatest composer after himself. Well, deafness remarks aside, the Symphony certainly should have been heard here before now, and Abbado must be thanked for bringing it to Davies. The orchestra sounded inauthentically lush for the period, but that was a small complaint considering the melodic charm and rhythmic inventiveness of the music.

Berio's *Requies* ("May you rest") is a brief and dreamy score that sounds vaguely minimalist and trance-like, but there are mo-

ments of passion in the sea of contemplation. The audience responded enthusiastically. After Abbado's proven accomplishment with Rossini's *Stabat Mater* in his last visit, I wish he had considered dropping the concluding *Aus Italien* by Richard Strauss for Berio's *Sinfonia*, which requires voices and orchestra like the Rossini.

Aus Italien is an early work by Strauss, and it is agreeable enough. Skirting some of the obvious vulgarities of the later, grander tone poems, it paints a pleasing quartet of picture postcards. The orchestra played well, especially the strings, but those pesky horns were a little unstable at times. Roberto Abbado needn't stay away too long, but ought to be a little more adventurous when he returns. ▼

Montmartre mon amour

Toulouse-Lautrec and his world at the Palace of the Legion of Honor

by Will Shank

Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec (1864-1901) has been celebrated on stage and screen as the eccentric French aristocrat whose physical limitations (a childhood bone disease broke his legs and limited his adult stature to 4' 11") and extraordinary talent made him a fixture in the bohemian artistic circles of *fin de siècle* Paris. The life of Toulouse-Lautrec epitomized the caricature of the artist who embraced the debauchery of the world of Paris music halls, theaters, circuses and brothels that he so vividly depicted in paintings, drawings and commercial posters. An affinity for absinthe and other drink led to his premature death at age 36. (An upcoming major motion picture on the subject, starring John Leguizamo and Nicole Kidman, has been unfortunately delayed, thus squelching a museum publicist's dream.)

The unwieldy title of the exhibition now at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor — *Toulouse-Lautrec and the Spirit of Montmartre: Cabarets, Humor and the Avant-Garde 1875-1905* — serves as a bit of an excuse for the show's not really being about Toulouse-Lautrec, but the name of the colorful artist name will certainly draw in crowds who might not otherwise come to what is essentially a history exhibition.



The artist Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec and a nude model view *Au Salon* in his studio, circa 1894

One gallery filled with the graphic work of the artist comes as an appropriate coda to the rest of the show. Most of those works are

from the permanent collection of the Achenbach Foundation, which is housed at the Legion; they complement the voluminous traveling exhibition, which has been on the road since it was assembled at the Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum of Rutgers University in 1996.

But it is Paris, and specifically its northernmost neighborhood, the hillside village of Montmartre, which is the star of the exhibition. The low-rent district in which old windmills had been converted into raucous nightclubs served as a catalyst for truly avant-garde artists whose work challenged the establishment. A wall *Le Mur* took shape organically at a bar called the Quat'z'Arts, and it included hundreds of impromptu contributions on paper, many of them scatological and irreverent. Some 1,500 drawings which were meticulously saved and stored by the bar's owner found their way into the Rutgers collection, and many of them are on display at the Legion. Another cabaret, the Chat Noir, also supported radical creative types like the Hydropathes and the Incohérents, and many contributed to an 1880s journal called *Le Chat Noir*. The delightful *guignol* or puppet theaters intended for the amusement of French children were adapted by irreverent artists like Alfred Jarry, whose play *Ubu/Roi* featured an obscene caricature of the innocent puppets, and whose first poetic word is, "Merde!"

Smoking Mona

There are some big names here, including Vuillard, Bonnard, and Vincent van Gogh. But the lesser-known names whose works are poster designs, journals and books are the featured artists in this exhibition. Decades before Dada artist Marcel Duchamp drew a mustache on the Mona Lisa, Eugene Bataille adapted Leonardo's icon in an 1887 journal. His drawing of Mona Lisa smoking a pipe is featured on the cover of the show's intelligent catalogue, in which scholars examine

chapter by chapter the journals, the music, the literature, and the spirit of the period.

For the patient viewer who sifts through the ephemera in the cases, other moments of truly radical art reveal themselves. If an all-black card titled *Negroes Fighting in a Cellar at Night* seems like something we've seen in a hundred postcard racks, more than a century ago it was truly revolutionary. The monochrome of it and the accompanying series (the gray *Round of Drunks in the Fog*, or the white *First Communion of Chlorotic Young Girls in Snowy Weather*) come from the *Album* *primo-avrilisque* (April Fool-ish

Album) of 1897 by Alphonse Allais, based on an entry in the 1882 *Exposition des Arts Incohérents*.

Much of the work of the Hydropathes and the Incohérents prefigures Dadaism, Fluxus, and the more radical movements of the 20th century. Elsewhere in the exhibition, there are images that still have the power to shock the jaded, seen-it-all audience of the 21st century, such as the watercolor of a woman, nude except for her thigh-high boots, bound, spread-eagle and upside down on the arms of the windmill of the Moulin de la Galette (Adolphe Willette, *A Martyr to Pleasure*, 1900).

The inherent limitations in portraying such a colorful period on the walls of an "establishment" institution are the same ones that were faced by SFMOMA when, a few years ago, a design installation of San Francisco '60s psychedelia appeared almost mummified by its dignified presentation in clean vitrines against white gallery walls. The Montmartre show faces the same challenges, but a few glimmers of the real thrills of the period peek through. The acoustiguide tour apparently (I did not try it out) features music of the period. And one gallery recreates the magical pre-cinema moment when the Shadow Theater flickered across a backlit screen. Several of the original zinc cut-outs are on display, and others move in a continuous two-dimensional frieze against a Maxfield-Parrish-blue sky. The Punch-and-Judy-like puppets of the *Ubu Roi*, alas, stand immobile in their small theater, but their presence lends an air of magic as well. ▼

Toulouse-Lautrec and the Spirit of Montmartre: Cabarets, Humor and the Avant-Garde 1875-1905, at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor through May 27.

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L'Exposition des Arts incohérents, by Jean Louis Cohl, 1893

Puzzle pieces and ghostly apparitions

What's up at the galleries in March

by Will Shank

D avid Ireland has done an amazing thing at Gallery Paule Anglim in conjunction with the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. Since the closure of the de Young, the museum has more paintings in storage than they know what to do with. Seizing the moment, the always-innovative conceptual artist Ireland asked for, and got, a number of traditional American paintings from the FAMSF, and he has mounted a loan exhibition of portraits and landscapes hanging on the Anglim's walls, with beat-up museum stanchions and all. Installed adjacent to the paintings are what appear to be oversize monochrome jigsaw puzzle pieces of painted metal which complement the shapes and colors of the Old Masters. The combination presents rich visual food for thought, after a sort of shocking moment of disorientation in the contemporary gallery. (Up through March 31 at 14 Geary St.)

Robert Koch Gallery at 49 Geary features the haunting color prints of Canadian photographer Edward Burtynsky through April 28. His *Shipbreaking* series focuses on chunks of broken, rusted steel, stacked in enigmatic shapes on a beach in Bangladesh. Many readings can be applied to the enigmatic shapes, which resemble cityscapes or ghostly apparitions on a misty seascape. When I initially saw one of the umber-hued photographs in small reproduction, at first glance I thought it was a 17th-century view of a Dutch town *à la* Rembrandt! The knowledge that this sculpture garden represents the grueling labor of (mostly unseen) laborers adds to the profound layers of meaning inherent in his images.

At Haines Gallery, also at 49 Geary, the works of Jonathan Seliger remind one of the clever Tom Friedman exhibition at Yerba Buena earlier this year. Is it a plumped pillow hanging on the wall, or is it art? How did those milk cartons grow to be so tall? I especially liked a large, T-shaped wall installation which is an almost-but-not-quite echo of 13th-century Florentine artist Cimabue's crucifixes. In the smaller "project space" at Haines are the Op Art, gingham-pattern paintings of New York artist Susie Ros-



Shipbreaking #10, Chittagong, Bangladesh, by Edward Burtynsky

marin in her first West Coast solo exhibition. A number of cross-eyed gallery visitors were observed stumbling out of the back room on First Thursday. Both shows close on March 31.

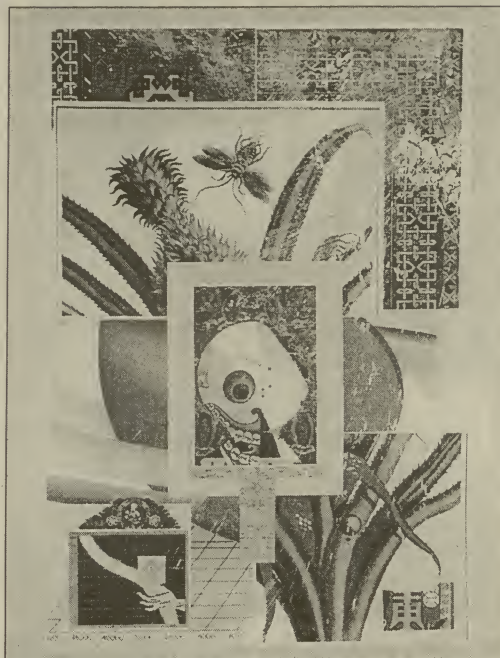
SoMa hideaway

Space 743, the ever-interesting, hidden-away SoMa spot whose gallery is the front room of a working warehouse filled with the studios of ceramic artists, is showing *Bodyparts*. An exhibition of two women whose work explores the female body in two dimensions, it is a combination of individual paintings and drawings by Mary Joy Scott and Monica Johnson, as well as some collaborative efforts on one canvas. Most startling is a *Before/After* painting series which Scott has adapted from a website advertising various options in plastic surgery. The resulting combination of lifted and unlifted breasts on one body is both amusing and unsettling. The show closes March 31 at 743 Harrison St. (415-777-9080)

Bucheon Gallery in Hayes Valley is showing the collages of East Bay artist Michael Mew; it is his second one-person show there. The autobiographical stories that play themselves out on the canvases and panels of Mew's paintings are thoughtfully introspective and beautifully assembled. (The artist's day job sees him making exquisite housings for many of the Bay Area museums' most valuable artworks.) The gallery has been transformed into a "colorful stage," according to Bucheon's promo, and Mew's works of surrealism, magic and spiritualism reach out to the viewer for a thoughtful, slow read. The instal-

lation ends April 9 at 540 Hayes St., or let your fingers do the walking to their website, www.bucheon.com.

If you haven't checked out the innovative Canvas, an over-the-counter eatery and art gallery, high-tail it across town to the corner of Lincoln and Ninth Ave. This is the sort of entrepreneurial establishment that the Bay Area's overpopulated art world needs more of! The cafe-cum-gallery, which is under the same management as downtown's Hang, offers the works of little-known local artists for reasonable prices and rotates them constantly, as they seem to fly off the walls. Renting the works on display is also an option, *à la* SFMOMA Rental Gallery at Fort Mason. Call 415-504-0070 for more information.



Labyrinth, by Michael Mew, 2000, mixed media collage on canvas

Speaking of the Fort Mason Center, the Museo Italo-Americano has a stunning exhibition called *Venini: Glass & Design*. Ranging from luscious traditional Murano glass to sleek moderne variations, the 60 objects on view in the Museo's small galleries re-

resent the work of one family, the Venini of Milan, and they demonstrate many gorgeous variations on a traditional Venetian theme. The Dale Chihuly pieces also on display pale by comparison. (Through April 29. Building C at Fort Mason; 415-673-2200.) ▼

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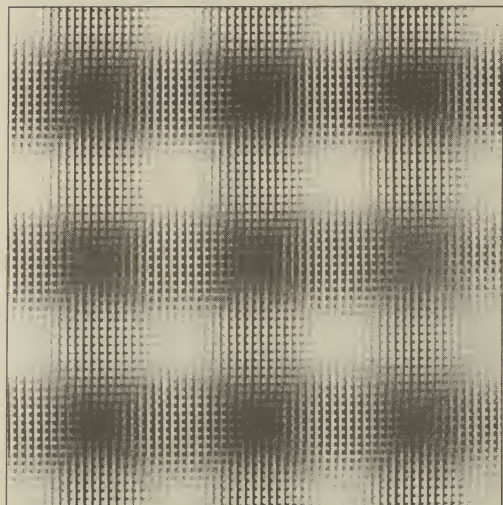
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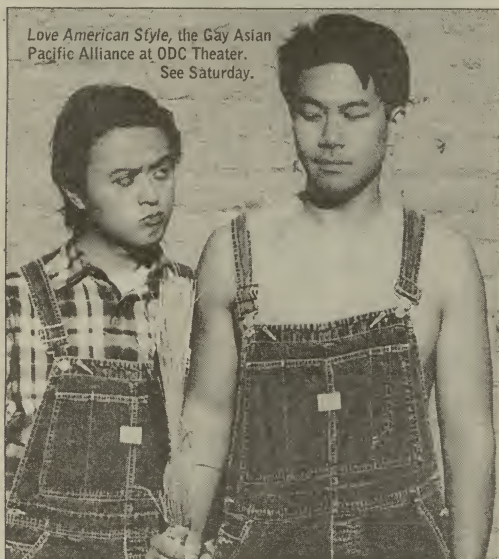
EXCLUSIVE ONE WEEK ENGAGEMENT
STARTS FRIDAY, MARCH 16TH - 22ND

DAILY AT: 7:00 & 9:00PM SAT/SUN/WED AT: 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00 & 9:00PM



Chartreuse Flash, by Susie Rosmarin, at Haines Gallery

OUT&ABOUT



Love *American Style*, the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance at ODC Theater. See Saturday.

Calendare by Mark Mardon

Cruising Fort Mason

You never know who you'll bump into at a crafts show. It could be your next boyfriend or girlfriend. You might happen to be perusing a display of hand-woven baskets when some hot guy in leather comes along looking for something to stuff his *Tillandsia* in. The decorator in you perks up, and before you know it, the two of you are comparing sizes and shapes.

Even if fantasy meetings don't lure you down to **Fort Mason Center** this weekend for the 10th annual **Contemporary Crafts Market**, the impressive array of goods on sale ought to pull you in. This is, of course, decorating season, and our homes wouldn't be half as gay as they are without some fine tapestries on the walls, a bit of blown glassware displayed on cabinet shelves, and maybe some distinctive furnishings to suit a living room's soothing Feng Shui.

Of course you can buy crafts at countless import stores and sidewalk vendor stalls, but nowhere can you find so many crafts assembled in such a convenient location: some 340 artisans will be on hand at the crafts market to show you their decorative, functional and wearable art.

The location at Fort Mason Center makes this a perfect destination for an all-day, all-day outing. You can shop for your crafty goodies, then move on to the other crafty attractions in this community-arts complex by the bay: the **Museum of Craft & Folk Art** (now showing textiles and pottery from New Mexico's Rio Grande Valley), the **Museo ItaloAmericano** (glass works from the Venini glass company of Venice), the **SF African American Historical & Cultural Society Gallery** (Ancient African textiles in contemporary life), and the **SF Museum of Modern Art Artists Gallery** (paintings, drawings and mixed media works by Elena Zolintsky, Heidi Bruckner, Lawrence Chin, and Patricia Thomas).

On Friday, March 16, you can also visit the **Sterling Silver Jewelry Sale**, presented by Hi-Ho Silver, in Building A. The pieces — handcrafted, high-quality bracelets, earrings, necklaces, pendants and rings — come from Taxco, Mexico.

On Saturday, March 17, in Building A, you can partake of the biannual sale of **Blossom Handcrafted Jewelry**, with all manner of wearable art in Austrian crystal, semiprecious stones, freshwater pearls, and sterling silver. Then skip over to the **Psychic Healing Fair**, where Psychic Horizons' clairvoyant students and graduates offer readings and healings from 1-3 p.m. in Building C.

Any experience at Fort Mason is pleasant, but with such an abundance of crafts on a single weekend, an outing there could be extra rewarding. It's a guaranteed magnet for gay and lesbian crafts queens and kings. ▼

For more information about Fort Mason Center projects and events, surf www.fortmason.org; phone 345-7544.



Procelain vase by Ki Cho

Fri 16

Studio @ Rhino

The Cutting Ball Theater presents Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, directed and designed by Rob Melrose. A strange and wonderful tale where all preconceptions about identity and the nature of love are stripped away. Rosalind is banished to the mythical forest of Arden by her evil Uncle Frederick. To protect herself from being accosted, she disguises herself as a man. She runs into a bizarre cast of characters including an insane clown, a self-absorbed fob, her long-lost father, a hallucinating shepherd, an androgynous couple, and the man of her dreams whom she must woo disguised in male drag. Featuring Paige Rogers, Elizabeth Bullard, Richard Bolster, Genevieve Lee, Nathan Aaron Place, David Sinaiko, Kurt Gundersen, William Martin, Lisa Moraschi Shattuck, Lasse Christiansen, and Paul Gerrior. \$12-\$20 sliding. 8:30pm. The Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. Tix/info: 861-5079; www.cuttingball.com

Luna Sea Women's Performance Project

"Passages," Rebecca Schultz's visual and spoken-word look at the experience of being a young woman over three generations. Through personal testimony, ritual, and a small green suitcase, "Passages" takes a simultaneously humorous, introspective and poignant look at the lessons to be learned from women who have gone before. \$10-\$15. 8pm. 2940 16th St., suite 200-2. Tix: 863-2989.

The Hamlin School Mansion

PlayWorks Productions presents "Undone," conceived and directed by Deborah Hull, performed by PlayWorks Performance Group: Lisi DeHaas, Deborah Hull and Jude Navari, with guest artists. This site specific piece — SF's historic Flood Mansion (now home to a girls school) — features the Italianate baroque structure, text, live piano, and an intergenerational cast. The play explores the fragmented landscape and eccentric inhabitants of one woman's psyche. Socialites, neophytes, and clowns move in and out, creating a Felliniesque collage of encounters and communal celebration. Free. 7pm & 9pm. Also on March 17. 2120 Broadway (btwn Webster & Buchanan). Info/res: 820-1481.

New Conservatory Theatre Center

Arturo Catricala directs David Marshall Grant's *Snakebit*, a comedy of

contemporary manners and a study of modern friendship when put to the test. \$15-\$25. 8pm. Thru March 24. 25 Van Ness Ave. Tix: 861-8972.

Jon Sims Center for the Arts

AIRspace Artist in Residence Tara Brandel presents a workshop production of "Breath," a dance ritual invoking the element of air as a metaphor of inspiration and change. Weaving a capella singing, rhythmic breath work, modern dance, aerial dance and spoken word, "Breath" mixes high-energy risk taking with introspective reflection. "Breath" invites the audience to experience archetypal female imagery in relation to contemporary visions of lesbian life and community. Irish born Brandel is artistic director of Mna Rua Dance Productions and has created works in London, Ireland, Berlin and SF since 1991. \$5-\$10 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 8pm. 1519 Mission St. Info: 554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

The Marsh

"Runs With Scissors," a sitcom for the stage in three episodes, starring Liz White, directed by Bayla Travis. To date, Liz has been diagnosed with panic attacks, compulsive cleaning, checking and counting, and delusions of grandeur. Her boyfriend is a certified genius who works at The Golden Yogurt. Her diesel dyke roommate expects cleaning and bill paying on a regular basis. It's all too much for someone too sensitive, angry and fragile to have an easy time in the world. \$10-\$15 (NOTAFLOF). 8pm. 1062 Valencia St. (at 22nd St.). Tix/info: 862-5750.

SF Arts Commission Gallery

Opening reception: "18th Annual Photo Metro Contest," curated by renowned New York City photographer Duane Michals. Featuring some 60 works selected from 1,200 entries submitted by 390 photographers, including award winners Michael Kerbow of SF (digitally manipulated circus side-show characters) and Doyoun Lee of NYC (a culturally ambiguous third-world character amidst various metropolitan landscapes). Free. 6-8pm. 401 Van Ness Ave. (at McAllister). Info: 554-6080.

1015 Folsom St.

"Nikita" holds its 5-year anniversary party, featuring a 5-hour set by internationally celebrated DJ John Digweed. With five dance floors of house, techno, trance and drum & bass with resident DJ's Simon, Jerry Bonham, Taj, Gianni, Siren, Kaos, Method one and Kayar. \$10. 10pm - 6am. 21+w/I.D.



AIRspace Artist in Residence Tara Brandel dances in *Breath* at Jon Sims Center. See Friday.

Sat 17

HMI @ Build

Harvey Milk Institute workshop: "Alternative Forms: A Poetry Intensive," with Mark Wunderlich (2 days; 10:30-4:30pm; \$115 + \$5 materials fee). 483 Guerrero St. (at 17th St.). Info/registration: 552-7200; www.harveymilk.org

HMI @ Eros

Harvey Milk Institute workshop: "Where the Boys Are: Intro to Sex Clubs for Young Men," with James Lott, Jr. & Mark Menke. Have your questions about sex clubs answered while meeting other young men in a discussion aimed at demystifying sex clubs and proving they're simply great places to play. \$10. Noon-3pm. 2051 Market St. (at Dolores). Info/registration: 552-7200; www.harveymilk.org

ODC Theater

Gay Asian Pacific Alliance presents "Love American Style," a special concert highlighting American music, featuring GAPA Men's Chorus and GAPA Dance Company. They'll interpret sailor songs and sea chanteys ("for those with a taste for seamen," says Choral Director Randy Kikukawa), folk and barbershop harmonies, pop hits and show tunes, all explore different aspects of gay love. With new dance pieces by Michael Palad, Alma Soongi Beck, Budi Kirana, and Ian Michael Enriquez — "mostly hip-hop and modern," according to company coordinator Lewis Fernandez, "strongly influenced by everything from aerobics and ballroom dance to cheerleading." \$10 (\$8 GAPA members & supporters). 7pm. 3153 17th St. Tix: 863-9834. Info: 282-GAPA; www.gapacultural.org

Gershwin Theater, USF

St. Patrick's Day concert: Celtic Airs and Dances with Benjamin Verdery on classical guitar, and William Coulter on Celtic and Irish guitar. The program will include traditional Irish, Celtic and Scottish music as well as traditional music of Breton, Africa and Spain. Presented by the Omni Foundation for the Performing Arts. \$18 & \$22. 8pm. Ira & Leonore S. Gershwin Theater, University of San Francisco, 2130 Fulton St. Info: (888) 400-09MI; www.omniconcerts.com

1015 Folsom St.

"Release," an all-night party of house, breaks, trance, techno, D&B, 2-step, experimental, etc., featuring DJs Deep Dish, Behrouz, Garth, David Coleman and Sen-Sei in the main room, with Julius Papp, Marques Wyatt, and DeMilo in the VIP Room. Plus "Subterra," the longest-running Saturday night party in SF, located in the basement with DJ Tom Thump. \$21. 10pm-6am. 21+w/I.D. 1015 Folsom (at 6th St.). Info: 281-0823; www.ReleaseSF.com

Sun 18

Elbo Room

"Amelia's Flashback: A Tea Dance," in which two of SF's finest lesbian softball teams will transform the Elbo Room into the dyke club it used to be. Raffle prizes include delivered pizza, restaurant gift certificates, a ticket to Feygelah Schmeygelah, original artwork, Giants tix and more. Dancing, door prizes, and entertainment. DJ DT spins house, hip-hop and surprises. A benefit for the 2001 Gay softball League's World Series (held this year in SF), Elbo Room's tomboys, and Pacific reproductive Services' Basters. \$5. 4-8pm. 647 Valencia St. (at 17th St.). Info/raffle tix: sharonbowen@earthlink.net

Paradise Lounge

"Poetry Above Paradise," with featured prose readers Alvin Orloff, author of *I Married an Earthling*, and Larry-bob, publisher of the queer zine *Holy Titsclamps*. Neither of them will be reading poetry, but that's what the event is called. Followed by an open mic. Free. 8pm. 308 11th St. (at Folsom). Info: 621-1911; www.holytitsclamps.com

Hush Hush Lounge

Ambient Airlines presents "Recliner," a chill event departing once a month with a destination of ambient electronic and atmospheric dance music. Guided by guest DJs Halon (forthemsic collective) and Pie (Semiconscious

Liberation Army) and resident DJs Curium and Lior spinning out a sweet, cozy vibe and cosmic sounds. This is one of the coolest "undiscovered" bars in the Mission, with a friendly mixed clientele. 9pm-1am. 496 14th St. (at Guerrero).

Mon 19

Piaf's Restaurant & Cabaret

QComedy.com presents "Gay Comedy Showcase at Piaf's," this week hosted by Blake. With Nancy Guaquier, David guiney, Craig roberts, Morgan Brayton, Bridget Schwartz, and more. \$5. 8pm. 1686 Market St. (at Gough). 541-5610.

Tue 20

Bethany United Methodist

The San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band opens its 2001 Community Concert Series with "Songs & Dances," featuring circus marches, Irish folk songs, Scottish dances, American love ballads, wild west tonalities and more. Conducted by Artistic Director Jantine Louie, the program includes Malcolm Arnold's "Four Scottish Dances," the R. Alexander circus march "Olympia Hippodrome," Elliott Del Borgo's "Gaelic Rhapsody," John Philip Sousa's rousing "Gallant Seventh March," Alfred Reed's "Symphonic Prelude," Robert Jager's "Third Suite," and Morton Gould's "West Point Symphony for Band." Free. 8:15pm. 1268 Sanchez St. (at Clipper).

HMI @ Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy

Harvey Milk Institute class begins: "The Magic of Improvisation" with Karen Ripley (5 Tues., thru Apr. 24; 7:30-9:30pm; \$115). 4235 19th St. (at Collingwood). Info/registration: 552-7200; www.harveymilk.org

Intersection for the Arts

Writer Rebecca Solnit and photographer Susan Schwartzberg talk about their collaborative book *Hollow City: The Siege of San Francisco and the Crisis of American Urbanism* (Verso, 2000). Their work documents the erosion of SF's diverse artistic, activist and working-class communities. Solnit is a prominent writer, art critic, museum exhibition curator and political activist. She has written extensively about visual art, public space, landscape and environmental issues. Schwartzberg is the Senior Artist at The Exploratorium. \$5 suggested. 8pm. 446 Valencia (btwn 15th & 16th sts.). Info: 626-2787.

Cow Palace

Opening night party: "2001: A Floral Odyssey," the 16th annual SF Flower & Garden Show, a benefit for Friends of Recreation & Parks, co-chaired by Supervisor Mark Leno, Edith Tobin, and Emily Pope Taylor. The gathering provides a look at one of the largest

Liz White Runs With Scissors, at The Marsh. See Friday.



and finest garden exhibitions in the world. Featuring two giant koi ponds, a variety of garden-related vendors, as well as the first ever vertical, urban garden. Catering by Dan McCall. \$150. 6-9pm. Geneva Avenue & Santos. Tix: Monica Lai, 750-5441; monica@frp.org. Info: www.sfparks.org

The Stud

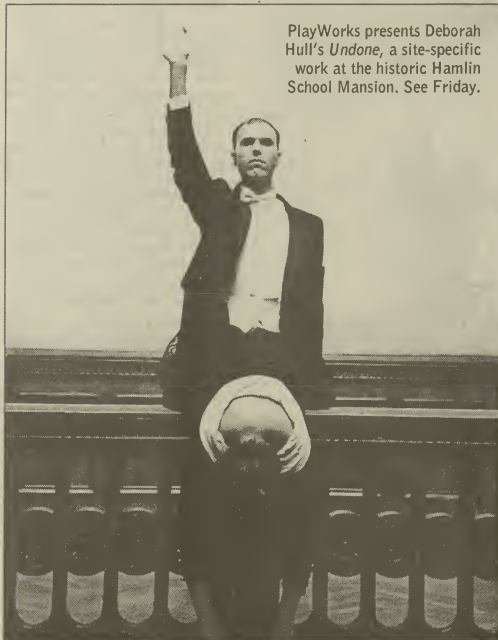
Trannyshack goes all-out for "The Return of 'Mandonna,'" an all-star transgender tribute to the Material Girl, co-hosted by LA's own Teenya and our own ultra-exquisite Heklina. The Madonna lip-synch war begins at midnight. Madonna look-alikes encouraged (especially if accompanied by hunky playthings). DJ Pinky Ring warms up the crowd with sassy beats. Miss Chocolate guards the door. \$5. 10pm-3am. 399 9th St. (at Harrison). Info: www.heklina.com

Wed 21

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

San Francisco Performances presents the Paul Taylor Dance Company, which in the course of 45 years has performed in more than 400 cities in more than 60 nations. Tonight: "Program A," featuring four pieces choreographed by Taylor: "Cascade," with music by J. S. Bach, "Profiles" with music by Jan Ryzdanski, "Big Bertha," with music from the St. Louis Melody Museum collection of band machines, and "Szyzygy," with music by Donald York. \$38 & \$45.

PlayWorks presents Deborah Hull's *Undone*, a site-specific work at the historic Hamlin School Mansion. See Friday.



8pm. 700 Howard St. (at 3rd St.). Tix/info: 392-4400; www.performances.org

Liquid

"Progress," cool house and break sounds with resident DJ Joseph Lee. \$3 cover charge. Doors open at 10pm. 2925 16th St. Info: 789-8565

Thu 22

Venue 9

Footloose presents "Done to Death," written and directed by Aren Haun, the story of a family whose lives are transformed into an absurd version of Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*. The tragic world of Willy Loman is combined with modern life in this take on family dysfunction. Say hello to the Hoovermans. \$10-\$15 sliding (\$25 opening gala night, March 24). 8pm. Thru April 7. 252 Ninth St. (btwn Folsom & Howard). Tix/info: 289-2000; www.venue9.com

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

San Francisco Performances presents the Paul Taylor Dance Company. Tonight: "Program B," featuring three pieces choreographed by Taylor: "Arabesque," with music by Claude Debussy, "Funny Papers," set to novelty tunes, and "Musical Offering," with music by J.S. Bach. \$38 & \$45. 8pm. 700 Howard St. (at 3rd St.). Tix/info: 392-4400; www.performances.org

SF City Hall

Opening reception: The Bay Area Photographers Collective presents an exhibition of black-and-white images, with works by 27 photographers. Free. 5:30-7:30pm. Lower-level gallery, City Hall.

The Stud

"Reform Skool," the queer dance space packed with naughty boys, celebrates its one-year anniversary with special treats including sassy beats by resident DJs Jeff "Big Red" Chandler and the newest addition to the club, DJ Poppa, formerly of Seattle's "ElectroLush." 10pm-4am. 399 9th St. (at Harrison).

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

Mark Mardon
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Houston Davenport flashed the victory sign after being named Mr. San Francisco Leather 2001 on Friday, March 9, at Club Townsend. Chris Ross (left) is the second runner up, and Eric Bernier (right) is the first runner up. Davenport will compete for the International Mr. Leather title in Chicago on Memorial Day weekend.

Davenport wins Mr. SF Leather title

by Mister Marcus

Until last Friday night, March 9, 2001, Houston Davenport had to content himself with being Mr. Powerhouse Leather 2001 — and he still holds that distinguished title — but then his world grew much bigger. Before a standing room only crowd at Club Townsend, at right around 2155 hours, Davenport became the twenty-third man to win the Mr. Leather of San Francisco title. Houston, we have lift off!

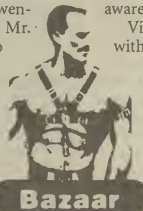
For Davenport, it was an especially rewarding moment, given that he had to prepare for the competition amid frequent visits to his ailing partner, Bob Miller, hospitalized due to pneumonia. In fact, Davenport's first stop after the contest was to the bedside of his ailing partner. He was accompanied by his immediate predecessor, Lance Gear.

But how sweet it is for Mr. Davenport! Not only does winning the prize earn him round trip air fare and hotel accommodations for International Mister Leather in Chicago, he'll be representing San Francisco there, and the leather community is solidly behind him. He was also awarded \$1,000 cash to spend as he sees fit for more leather gear and other expenses. To top it off, The Sling donated "one exclusive night for the winner and 10 of his friends" (thanks Russ Libby!). I'm assuming it will be long after Memorial Day weekend before Houston will be able to host this little soiree.

The first runner-up in the contest was Eric Bernier, Mr. Edge Leather 2001, and the second runner-up was Chris Ross, Mr. Daddy's Leather 2001. This is exactly the same order in the scoring as last year when Lance Gear won the title, with Bob Miller and Rob Esmonde the runner-

ups.

It was a grueling but rewarding week for everyone involved with the Mr. SF Leather 2001 contest. Producers Bob Brunson and Glennon Sutter have barely recuperated from their odyssey into contest producing, but it was a damn good job they did! Oh sure, there were several glitches before and during the contest, but it all worked out just fine and nobody in the audience was aware of any "situations."



Bazaar

Viola Wills rocked the place with her musical renditions, both in the opening number where the contestants were in jail cells in a twisted version of "Oz" and "The Wizard of Oz", complete with a yellow brick road from the front door of 177 Townsend to the seating area.

Queen Cougar perched in a wheel chair at the beginning of the number, and Viola Wills ripped off the prisoner suits as the contestants were introduced. Later, the "Queen" was absolutely scintillating in a flawless gown and makeup.

"Dreamer," that hunky, dreamy man from Guerneville, did an excellent job "signing" for the hearing impaired.

The tally masters were Tim Wong and Bill Weaver, who delivered the results to Queen Cougar in record time.

It wasn't easy for the judges. Lance Gear headed up the panel as the Chief, with IML Chief Judge Thom Dombkowski, Mr. Los Angeles Leather Jeff Wacha, Ingu Yun, Gary Kenyon, Mike Martin and Laura Federico joining in the scoring. Andy Rose was the judges' slave, and Art Tomaszewski was the Den Daddy.

Vern Stewart (aka Wicked Witch of the East) flew in from snowy upstate New York to present the Peter Austin Award. This year, it went to Paul Lester, the past five-year president of the board of directors of SMMILE.

Later in the evening, the Mr. SF Leather Committee presented the Unsung Hero award to Ingu Yun. Both awards were well-deserved and well-received by the audience.

Lance Gear was both sincere and eloquent in his stepping aside speech. It was only nine minutes long, but it was thankful, clear and gracious. I emphasize the word "gracious" because there are those in this community who have a "problem" with titled people working in the porn industry. Well, get over it (and you know who you are, Ms. Dame May Whitty). A person has as much right to explore their sexuality as he does to live in peace, harmony and happiness. Lance Gear may have stepped aside from the title last Friday night, but he will still be a force to be reckoned with in the future. Thanks Lance, for a job well done and making us very proud of you at IML last year.

Dixie Belles

The march towards IML and Chicago next May did not stop in San Francisco. Thanks to Mike Siemer flashes that in far off Kansas City, Missouri, the Dixie Belle Complex (formerly Saloon) hosted their annual Mr. Dixie Belle Leather competition, and added the Heart of America Leather Boy contest as well.

Mike advised that Bill Snook is the new Mr. Dixie Belle Leather 2001, and Scott Rower is the new Heart of America Leather Boy. Bill competes at IML in May and Scott competes for the American Leather Boy in Washington, D.C. the last weekend in April. The roster at that particular event is growing. It should be a great event.

One more thing: the SMMILE people are looking for someone to build their float for the Bare Chest Calendar men, who will once more participate in the Alphabet Soup Parade in June. Know anyone with talent in that area? It's worth some \$750 to the right person. Contact is (415) 851-3247. Tell them I sent you! ▼

PORN

Thick blue line

by John F. Karr

Married Cops Do is the latest video written, produced and directed by the beefy English former porn star Blue Blake, and it's okay, in a half-assed way.

I like movies that honor the sexual impetus directly, without distractions. A bare room and a bed are good; just add two guys who are hot for each other. Keep it focused. Blake likes to wrap his sex impulse in studied perversities. He likes heterosexuals who have homo sex, frequently under duress, and conflicted characters, like psychotic murderers, but especially cops.

The late pornographer Artie Bresson

once explained to me, as I grimaced at his youthful performer's acne, that guys who like street ruffraff would find the acne a "signifying feature." Here's things that Blake thinks are signifying features of butch guys: They're swaddled in muscle and frequently chomp cigars. They wear uniforms. They call their women bitches, and the guys felling them cocksuckers. Intending an insult. In a Blue Blake film, all this is supposed to heighten the sex. If this set-up works for you, there's movies out there that do it better. Most of MCD is as blunt as the tired fantasies it purveys.

Take the opening. The first sight in MCD is a woman's tit, filling the entire screen. It helps prove the movie's central fantasy, that the cops who bone each other are hetero. And the reason the cops like to bone each other isn't that it's fun, but because, we're told twice, their wives are "bitches." That's why we have to see a naked woman ragging on her spouse (as if a nagging wife excuses a husband's having sex with guys; as if sex between guys needs to be excused, or is somehow "hotter" if one of the partners is straight).

The good news is that this

head stuff takes a definite back seat to the movie's bodies. The calling card here is supposed to be handsome Duke Miller, a 24-year-old who, at 6'1" and 245 lb., is gargantuan, and all muscle. But not much of a performer. It's okay for a while, as guys crawl over his unyielding mass, prying open the twin mountains of his rump to spelunker their tongues down the steep crevasse to an asshole hidden deep in a moist and chocolaty abyss.

There's a taut, super-buff daddy named Glenn Matthews who provides a steamy solo, and a beefed-up Chad Connors is roughly abused by the delightfully seedy Joe Romero, who really puts out. The pairing of leanly

muscled Tuck Johnson with Anthony Cox is good. Cox is a trashy punk, covering his pasty torso with a worn wife-beater, and bearing on his arm a stupid tattoo so typical of his type. He even bites his nails. How's that for a signifying feature? He's got a heavy dick, and a truck driver's patter on how it should be serviced. Tuck does a slow strip for Cox that sizzles, and impales himself vigorously upon the supine dude for the video's best observed penetration.

Caesar's palace

And there's the single-named Caesar, who is a wonderment. Behind his gangland tats and surly machismo, he's big-time gay. And as fierce a bottom as he is a top, with a gorgeous slab of cock. You realize how flawless Caesar is when you recall how badly the other performers in this flick need better makeup and more flattering lighting.

Although Caesar is a tiger, I wonder if anybody could gose Duke. He gets rather stoically fucked in the finale, poked at both ends by Tuck and Caesar. While Duke's not getting hard (most of the scene), you can watch the other two.



The bare outline of a script, though mercifully brief, hardly explores the psycho-sexual elements that are the movie's key fantasies. And Blake doesn't follow through on other premises. After casting bulky bodies, he rarely appreciates their size, and continually dissects them. Not a single expedition is made into the golden outback of a sprawling armpit. And after finally flipping Duke onto his back, Blake keeps cutting him in two, showing one half or the other, but rarely the whole impressive thing.

The sex scenes are, for the most part, clumsily staged and largely unfelt. They have no continuity, and spasmodic development. The players change places as if going through a drill, and the camera-work, which frequently forgets to provide the identity of who is doing whom, is invariably too tight, too close-up (although you'll be glad for that at least once, when Duke's stout dick stretches the tender lips of Caesar's asshole back and forth in a splendidly observed, very labial moment).

Ultimately, Blake sullies sexuality while he mangles filmcraft. It's pretty much the same story in his debut feature, Demolition Daddy, which looks pretty good on a newly issued DVD. Joshua Scott and Steve Hurley provide some hot moments, the first with his stunning body, and the second with his elastic nipples. But do I cum before or after the men in the finale's quartet become corpses? Murder is such an arousing filip. ▼

www.BlueBlake.com

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EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend, March 16-18

It's the Mr. Maryland Drummer & Drummer Boy contests in Baltimore.

SM High weekend in Fort Lauderdale, for men only. Check out www.leatheru.com/smithhigh/moreinfo.htm.

Mr. Las Vegas Leather contest at the St. Tropez Hotel. Contest is Sat. night. For more info, click on www.luciflv.org.

Friday, March 16

Exiles of SF present a scintillating night at the Women's Bldg., with Ms. SF Leather 93 Queen Cougar expounding on her experiences in a 3-way marriage, her rise to fame as a mistress of ceremonies and awards from around the world. Doors open 1930, program at 2000. For women only.

Alameda County Leather Corps "Lucky in Leather" event at the Bench & Bar in Oakland. No details at my deadline.

In Houston, Don Gill's swan song in producing "Night in Black Leather," the annual benefit this year for Colt 45 (a fresh produce agency for AIDS patients) at Rich's in Houston.

In Baltimore, the Maryland Drummer and Drummer Boy contest at the Baltimore Eagle (nobody told me otherwise). Winners compete at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Drummer contest later this year.

Bears of San Francisco beer/soda bust at the Lone Star, 1500-1900, for \$7 (\$6 for BOSF members) with raffles, food spread and benefiting Project Inform.

Boot & Bondage Party sex theater with Officer Dick. Free digital photos of you and Dick. For more info, email mchester@best.com.

St. Patrick's Day — join the crowd at the Eagle Tavern with live music, sing-along, corned beef & cabbage around 1900. Sounds like fun!

Sunday, March 18

Women's wrestling at The Lure, 1800-2300, with boxing, catfights and all skill levels welcome. Women only.

Wednesday, March 21

Underwear Buddies meet at 933 Harrison tonight. Mandatory clothes check. For more info, 863-HEAD

Leathermen's Discussion Group tackles "Cock & Ball Play" at Club Eros tonight at 1930 with speaker "Randlbear." It's free.

Thursday, March 22

Mr. August 2002 bare chest contest at 2100 at the Powerhouse tonight. Win \$100. Become famous. Do your charity work here!

Weekend, March 23-25

Mr. and Ms. Philadelphia Leather contests in Philly as the Bike Stop hosts a weekend long event. I'll be there judging, so you'll not read the results in any other rag!

MegaTrash party and Mr. Holland Leather contest in Amsterdam this weekend, produced by Jacques Happe. It'll be a hot time in that town!

a private club

BLOW BUDDIES
 call 415-863-HEAD

Wed., March 21st UNDERWEAR BUDDIES

Boys to Men

◀ Arts cover

shows how a situation that can turn neurotic and self-destructive in adult life can be cathartic and magical for teens. Tuennerman steals the show, making Tina's awkward, pouty, clingy behavior endearing rather than off-putting. Instead of being crushed by the loss of her dream boy, Tina merely opts for a bigger and better dream — one she can share with Robbie. *Crush* benefits from the sudden appearance of the good-hearted lug of a country boy whose sleepy manners conceal a rather passionate heart. Warning: Anybody who truly can't stand virtually nonstop bubble-gum rock should probably miss *Crush*.

Beach trick

Duncan Tucker's *The Mountain King* takes us to a very different part of the musical forest, as Edward Grieg's *Incidental Music from 'Peer Gynt'* and *In the Hall of the Mountain King* inspire a spunky tale of two guys who have nothing to offer each other except sex and the fantasy of suddenly becoming a person very different from the person they know themselves to be. In many short films, characters lack last names (and the overly complicated lives that go with them); in *The Mountain King*, even first names become baggage — so we're left knowing the characters by their traits and the actors' own names. John Sloan plays a shy guy who pops up on a windy desolate beach with a nice watch, a large paper-back, a porkpie hat and \$40. Sloan may be straight, closeted, or just curious. For the hustler played by Paul Dawson (complete



Trapped suburban teens in *Crush*, a film by Phillip Bartell.

with the raggedy Mick Jagger look and badly-tended-to arm cast), Sloan may be a mark, a new friend, or a safe harbor. Dawson makes a used car dealer's pitch for homosex, complete with the hint that nobody will be refused, those with bad credit history or no credit at all. Fans of bad car ads know they usually fail to disclose the real terms under which the credit is being advanced, and Dawson's deal is no exception. Tucker plays deftly with some of the dramatic conceits of French director François Ozon: in the course of the film, Sloan and Dawson shed not only their clothes, but also several layers of masks. In the end, neither we nor they are entirely sure who they are or may become.

The shortest, most obvious and least satisfying part of the

program is Dan Castle'slost. Shot in the look of high concept, very buff Hollyporn,lost pur-



Two guys who have nothing to offer but sex: *The Mountain King*.

ports to be a cautionary tale of hedonism run amuck, of "barebacking" by guys who'd rather not know their partner's name or HIV status. Emotion and dialogue are kept to a minimum, and it's this "just the facts" style that leaves us as bored as the lonely boystown denizen left to stare at his skinny palm trees after his hunky daddy has fled the scene.

A little priest

Boys to Men recovers its footing brilliantly in the finale, *The Confession*. An older, queeny man lovingly removes hot quiche from the oven. A moment later, he shoves a piece of his pastry into a blender. This culinary atrocity has a point: Joseph, Caesar's lover of 30 years, is dying, and what appetite remains can only be quenched in liquid form. As director Carl Pfirman neatly observes, the biggest compromise to be made in the last days of Joseph and Caesar's life together will take place in the bedroom, and will be witnessed by a much younger



From *The Confession*

man. A very lapsed Catholic, Joseph has been bugging Caesar "to get me a priest." For Caesar, this bedside confession will be a renunciation of their lives together. For Joseph, things are a tad more complicated.

Pfirman has delicious fun with the idea of a deathbed confession spinning out of control. Just who gets to hold the wafer, and is the body of Christ the only body in bed with Joseph at the end? As usual with good filmmaking, the devil is in the details. One of the film's most saucy scenes is a view of the young priest waiting downstairs as Joseph and Caesar fight over his role in their lives. Even the priesthood has room for vanity, and note where the chewing gum gets parked as Father Marcus gives himself a quick makeover. ▼

Boys to Men plays March 16-22 at the Castro Theatre.

\$20 admit before 12PM



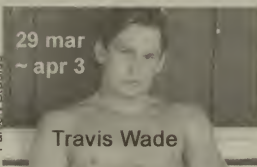
Marco Rossi
This week thru March 21

Mike's Photo Courtesy of Men Magazine



Michael Brandon
22 mar 28
Best Supporting Actor
Best Group Scenes
2001 GVN Nominees

Falcon Studios



Travis Wade
Best Actor & Group Scenes

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A Law unto himself



Our arts desk is not really into war movies, since they generally feature a lot of violence, and in most cases we already know who won. We have been waiting for **Jean-Jacques Annaud's** *Enemy at the Gates*, however, ever since Paramount announced it in their schedule of releases. It's set during the siege of Stalingrad during WWII, and it stars (here's the pay-off) juicy British actor **Jude Law** in the lead as a young Russian sharpshooter. Shoot it, baby!

Oh, there are other attractions: equally pretty **Joseph Fiennes** as an officer and Law's rival for the attentions of lady soldier **Rachel Weisz**. Also, the reputable actors **Bob Hoskins** and **Ed Harris** have supporting roles; Harris told the *BAR* recently that he made the movie purely for the money. But we don't care, and we're not hung up on plot details, either. Give us *Law*, missing in action since his star turn as **Dickie Greenleaf** last year, or anarchy rules. Opens Friday in wide release. ▼

BOOKS

The art of the short story

Ruthann Robson's tales are collected

by Deborah Peifer

Do we have a better writer than Ruthann Robson? I can think of several as good, but better? At least part of what makes Robson so impressive is her equal mastery of fiction (*a/k/a, Eye of the Hurricane*) and nonfiction (*Sappho Goes to Law School*).

In her latest collection of short stories, *The Struggle for Happiness* (St. Martin's \$13.95), Robson explores, through brilliantly and delicately connected tales, what it means to be alive in this world, and the ways in which all of our lives are changed by our interactions with one another. Robson's prose is breathtaking in its elegance and simplicity. These are stories that you will be thinking about long after their first reading, filled with characters you will never forget.

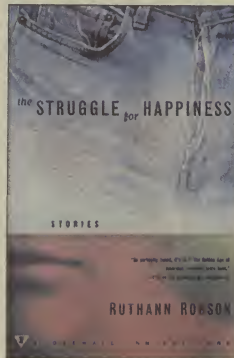
Consider Jolene in "His Sister," who knows that, "no matter what else anyone knows about [her] — her red hair that spirals from a heart-shaped head, her lust for eating chocolate and pizza, her lesbianism — once someone learns about her brother, everything else is eclipsed. Her brother

has the power to define her." Her brother is a "convicted sexual serial murderer on death row," but what Jolene can remember, or at least thinks she can, is the night her brother sobbed in her arms, "as if he possessed the most horrible hurt in the universe, as if he had irrevocably lost the struggle for happiness."

We know so much about Jolene and her brother from those brief but precisely chosen words. Just as we know a great deal about Andi ("Atlantis V"), who owns 15 dresses,

when we learn that "she does not simply rotate the wearing of her work dresses, but neither does she submit such an important decision to the vagaries of her postmeditation morning moods. She achieves the desired effect of near haphazardness with the aid of a computer program that amends the random only to the extent of requiring duplicates to be separated by a unit of at least three." After reading that description, I didn't just feel as if I knew Andi, I thought I might have dated her.

The Struggle for Happiness is an astonishing collection, filled with characters who live vividly on the



page and in our hearts and minds. Read these stories, and then tell me who might be better at creating worlds through the use of deceptively simple, breathtaking prose.

Dyke dick extraordinaire

Pat Welch is back with a new Helen Black novel, and that's great news for all of us who love a good mystery. *Moving Targets* (Bella, \$11.95) is the eighth in the line, and it may be the best yet. It is certainly the darkest.

Helen is on her way to Mississippi for a chance to see her beloved Uncle Loy one last time before he dies; given the gravity

of his illness, she'll wait there for the funeral that will not be long in coming. It was Uncle Loy who took Helen in when the rest of the family discovered Helen's lesbianism and disowned her, Uncle Loy who was Helen's one touch of family, along with his wife Edna, and their disabled son, Bobby.

Helen plans to stay in Mississippi to comfort Edna, but her mission of mercy is decidedly unwellcome. The last thing the religiously-minded Edna needs around her house of mourning is a buttinsky lesbian with a drinking problem, and Helen is all of that and more. The discovery of a photograph of Loy en flagrante delicto is humiliating to Edna, but Helen disregards her plea to leave the past alone, and decides to delve into Loy's secrets. The result is more complicated than you can imagine, and much more destructive than anyone might have feared.

Welch weaves her multi-layered plot with dexterity and skill. The slow disintegration of Helen Black and the world to which she thought she belonged is painfully credible. Characters major and minor are completely realized, and just when you think you know what's going on, you and Helen both discover that you do not at all. *Moving Targets* is an entertaining, thought-provoking read.

Events of interest

Hie yourself down to the Main Library (March 17, 2 to 4 p.m.) for *Slacks and Calluses: Our Summer in a Bomber Factory*, a Women's History Month presentation and slide show about life on the home front during WWII.

Queer Folk Art is an exhibition of GLBT people crafting individual identity through the creation of folk art. The exhibit runs concurrently at the Hormel Center at the Main and at the GLBT Historical Society through April 28. The opening reception takes place at the Historical Society, 973 Market St., Suite 400, on March 15 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

up to be, famous or not — particularly since some of those for whom bios were provided were not exactly "famous" anyway (e.g., a past president of a queer student group, and various webmasters and local activists). Also, there are five essays addressed to "Mom" which characterize the addressee as, if not homophobic, then at least woefully ignorant — a gambit meant to unify the book but ending up being simply redundant and somewhat insulting.

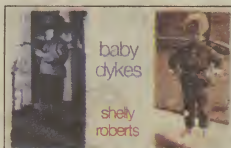
Any imperfections and quibbles aside, there's no denying the entertainment value of the pictures in *Baby Dykes* — whether it's Lillian Faderman, Alison Bechdel, Margie Adam, or Kate Bornstein who now captures your fancy. And if babies with glasses tickle you, you can find me on Page 3. ▼

A picture is worth 1,000 words

by Yvonne Zipter

Baby Dykes by Shelly Roberts; Alyson, \$12.95

Baby Dykes is one of those books for which the concept is so perfect you wonder why no one thought of it before: baby pictures of grown-up lesbians. Interspersed among the 160 or so dykes pictured here (some more than once) are very short essays and other snippets of prose by author Shelly Roberts. The text is slight and frequently has little to do with the pictures it's paired with, and the humor sometimes falls flat, but who cares when you can see Alix Dobkin looking coyly over her shoulder at the camera from her baby buggy? Or Suzanne Westenhoefer naked with a kitty



in her lap? Or Miriam Ben-Shalom in a head scarf?

While the idea is perfect, the book isn't quite: there are too few women of color included; publisher Tracy Baim's name is incorrectly spelled "Bain" (but consistently so, in all three places it appears); and it was bothersome constantly to have to flip to the back of the book to find the bios of those pictured — especially when bios for about 40 percent of them were not given. It would be nice to know who everyone grew

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Nancy Boutilier reads from her newest book of poetry, *On the Eighth Day Adam Slept Alone*, at A Different Light on March 21 at 7:30 p.m. ▼

If you have gossip, inquiries or information of a literary nature, send them to DeborahPeifer@msn.com, or via snail mail to the BAR.

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BAR TALK

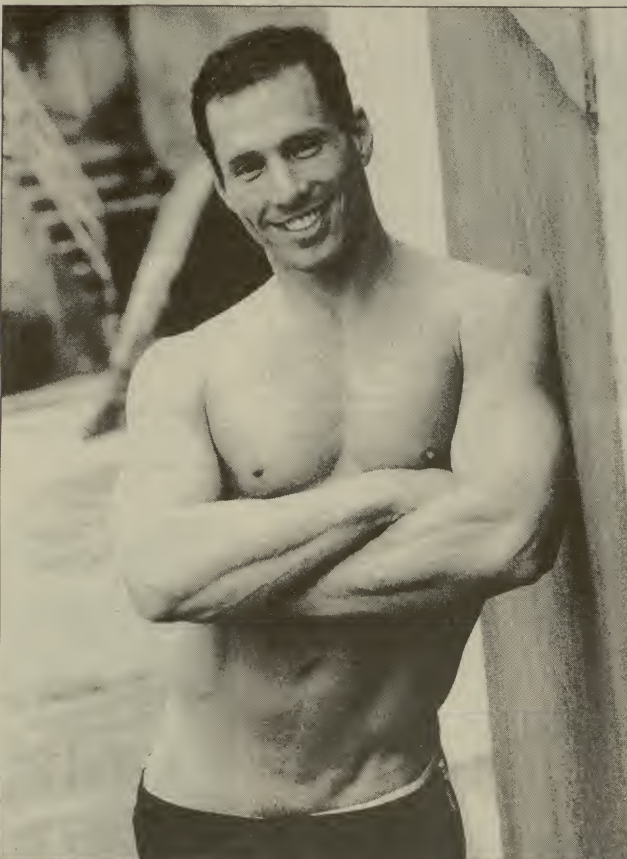


photo by Steven Underhill

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PARTING GLANCES

The Dark Crystal, Suggested I. For your students. We, sheltered from the freezing rain, huddled, humbled by freezing rain, numbing wind, shook hands. Let's heal our crystal. Plant your shard! ☎ 72848

Joel- Who Lived On Hyde Street Got evicted by G.B.- please call. ☎ 72897

Fubu Latin Man @ City Entaimt Fri. 1/12, saw you later @ Shell Gas Station, I'm Latin guy w/N.Y. cap & white Audi. Let's connect? ☎ 72851

Hot Cop @ SF Gay Parade 2000 You: Hop SF cop, GWM, salt & pepper hair. Me: GWM, grey beard-Hawaiian shirt- took your photo in Civic Center- would like your # & date. ☎ 72849

Mille Grazie, Jano Thank you for your kisses. Steve, Do- lores St. Bear SF ☎ 72854

Friday 126am Div @ Fell St. Stop Light. Friday morning, stopped at light on Divisadero. Both looked as we continued. Me: black Toyota. You: black/blue car? I took right on GG Ave & waved. Let's meet- have date. ☎ 72850

1/23 Union City Century 25 "The Pledge" 7:55 show. You sat high in back wearing a light blue jacket, khakis, and black ankle boots. Do you prefer to watch alone or would you like some company? ☎ 72852

Dancing WhiteHorse 1/26 Your in my dreams, You: muscular, goatee, arm w/ tattoo, Latin features w/older glasses man. Me: shy, dancing within your vision & smile. Let's create magic!... Friday!.. call ☎ 72853

Eros, Sun 1/21 Hi Tim, I introduced myself as we were leaving. I had a great time. Dinner, movie, one more time? Me: 38 blonde/blue 5'10", 185. ☎ 72872

At The End Up Superbowl Sunday Dancing in aisle, then you on dance floor. You: good dancer, blue eyes, dark hair, stylish. Me: longer hair, Latino, retro shirt, big shoes. Eyes met, cute smile. Wanna meet you! ☎ 72873

Nate Poetry Teacher 23 Y.O. You: Chinese Philosophy, History, Berkeley, BMW, bow ties. Matt would like to know you better. Your background intrigues me. Please let me know if it's mutual at China Cafe. ☎ 72874

"Steve" Please Call 'Joe' From NYC Mon. Jan 8, Golden Gate Park, sorry for the Big misunderstanding. I'm not playing games either. I don't have your telephone number. Let's try again. Please call. ☎ 72895

Brock, 2/8 'Uncle Berts Place' We had great conversation about Eastern Europe. I may have a room for rent. Should have given you my number but your F-train arrived. Hope we can meet again! ☎ 72896

~Not Frenchman!~ French guy desired for love and adventure by hung romantic blue eyed European in late 30's. Let's meet in San Francisco or Europe... ☎ 72919

Lone Star IRR Wkd 12-30am Sat. 2/17 You: White tee, salt & pepper hair & bushy goatee talking with three friends near patio bar. Me: blk leather jacket & cap, s/p beard; 5'11". Call me. ☎ 72920

UA Flight Den To SFO Tues 2/13 Fit. 1065 5:10pm., you, seat 336. Me: seat 33A. You live in Petaluma. Hating myself for being so bashful. Would love to spend some time with you! ☎ 72921

Reno Airport-Feb 16, Fit To Oakland Made eye contact waiting to board fit. 1724, Southwest Air. Missed chance to say hello. You: tall, black leather jacket, goatee. Me: tall, leather jacket. Would like to meet you. ☎ 72935

Market St. Safeway 2/15 We met inside. Me: good-looking GAM, said hello to you. You: tall, handsome White male, looked at me, as you left Thurs. night. ☎ 72936

Steamworks Ken Feb 19, Mon 2pm Our encounter in back was unusually nice, you expressed same. Wanted very much to spend more time together. Looked for you later, kept looking. Was it just lack of rooms? ☎ 71049

Dublin/Pleasanton Bart 2/21 First car, 10:45am, from Glen Park. You: red jacket, jeans. Me: blue jacket, jeans, black umbrella, off at Powell. Us: lots of eye contact. ☎ 71050

Castro Starbucks Sat Feb 24th You with catch-22, and those keen, penetrating eyes. I could not get you out of my mind. ☎ 71051

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

"Teach Me!" Bi-guy 40, smooth, clean, nice buns. HIV-vgl 6', 175lbs, bottom, closeted, seeks HIV-m top, your place. ☎ 72876

•Latino Encounters!• Looking for GWM 5'10", 165#. ☎ 72905

2001 Odyssey Befriend this sensuous senior who will transport you into outer space. 5'11", 150, hazel eyes, wavy hair, great kisser. Prefer slim Latinos or Asians. Let's wine, dine, romance in Hayward. ☎ 72856

HIV+ Latin Male 39, 5'8", 155 brn, brn eyes looking for ltr with HIV+ male Latin or White. Me top- very open minded and enjoy a good looking man's company. Call if interested. ☎ 72857

Top Fuckbuddy Wanted GWM, HIV+ bottom; ISO HIV+ top, for erotic man to man pleasure play. Me, bl, hzl, 6'1", slim. ☎ 72858

HIV+, Blacks, Latins, Puerto Ricans Wanted by HIV+, blond /blue, 5'10", 160lbs, versatile bottom, 44yrs, genuinely honest & loving, in good shape, no fat guys. You be similar. I live near Chico, I'm willing to travel, please call me. ☎ 72875

Raver/Urban Hipster Types Me: 35, GLM 5'10", 135 dark brown hair eyes. Nice worldly. You: light eyes. Nice personality smile. No heavy drugs. Cuddly, romantic, passionate. Sagittarian friendly. Like dancing. ☎ 72877

Attention Big Tall Guys Are you hung enough to try my pink hole? Lean Asian 30's mustache; Eastern hair, wanted to get plowed deep and hard all the way. Fantasy fulfilled only for you. ☎ 72878

Attn: Daytime Cock Suckers!! Got some freetime and would love a perfectly beautiful 7" cut cock w/big low hangers to suck on. Mature gentleman can provide this. HIV- glory hole available. ☎ 72879

Hot Hair Muscle Dad 5'8", 170lbs 46, dark hair, 9 uncult top seeks White, Latins, Asian, son 21-35 bottom, slim a plus HIV- N/S, N/D not into bars. For ltr. ☎ 72880

I Exist- Do You? SWM, cute, athletic, 42/6/175, HIV- Neg, br/br, hairy, clean & horny, looking to serve similar attractive, clean, hung, & HIV neg dude. My place in SF. No reciprocation necessary. LTR possible. ☎ 72899

SWM- ISO HIV+ Man Over 32/ Top ISO nice looking boyfriend over 30, HIV+ top open minded for more than sex. N/S ☎ 72900

Rancher Seeks Cowboy Rural living, rural lifestyle rancher 40's, 5'10", 180# masculine seeks to meet decisive, together non mainstream man, no drugs or disease for possible LTR. ☎ 72901

Yogi Bear Seeks Boo-Boo Bear Handsome, romantic HIV- top 210# 6'1" brown hair green eyes 42, seeks HIV- btm bear cub 37-45 for dating, intimate encounters and possible ltr. N/S, N/D pref. ☎ 72855

Taco Seeks Hot Dog Latino, 48, 5'6", 151# ISO GWM, 35-65, My interest: jogging, pro-sports, films, politics, classic rock, dylan. Into: oral, kissing, rimming. Sense of humor and hairy chest a plus. ☎ 72902

"Your Place Or Mine?" Healthy, good natured guy-weight proportioned, average looks, seeks same for fun times near Russian River or your place. Friendship or possible LTR. ☎ 72903

Mendocino County Ukiah, 40yr old Latin, good, looking, caring, compassionate. Likes to party. Seeking gay male 35-50 for serious relationship. You must like to party. Sincere only please. ☎ 72904

HIV+, Blacks, Latins, Puerto Ricans Wanted by HIV+, blond blue, 5'10", 160lbs, versatile bottom, 44yrs, genuinely honest & loving, in good shape, no fat guys. You be similar. I live near Chico, I'm willing to travel, please call me. ☎ 71053

Santa Rosa Area SF On Wk Ends Seeking other hard bodies, I'm 47 handsome smooth 39"C, 29"W, 145# sincere, spiritual, strong & loving. Enjoy hot tub, massage & hot sex. ☎ 72906

Poz GAM Seeks Fuckbuddy Athletic bubblebutt Asian 30's seeks fit GWM/GLM to 35 tops. I'm already in LTR & discreet, good kisser, bottom v-attractive. Can meet week-nights. Let's fuck! ☎ 72908

Thoroughly Decent Soul Desire more than hot versatile sex with honest available man 35-45. Me handsome, creative, musician, fit 6/190 42yogr eyes Afro-American heritage but with White Skin! ☎ 72922

Black Men Who Seek White Man Me: 5'8", 155 very loving, sexually bottom seeks BM who enjoys travel, movies, theatre and enjoying simple things with his loving male. ☎ 72923

~Asian~ Attractive GAM, 53y.o. slim, 5'7", affectional seeking older GWM for LTR. Like: cooking, traveling, quiet times. No smoking. ☎ 72924

Heart & Soul Hung Hung Big Fun, playful, attractive, 37, 6'1", 177# br/gr, clean-shaven, Dutch background, HIV+, publisher own flat, Lands End Trail, Bass Lake, heated pools, naked massage, Plush Room divas. Favorite food: Cioppino. Favorite Book: Home & health 1887. ☎ 72925

Lonely? Looking For A Friend? Shy GWM, 57, 5'3", 165#, in San Francisco looking for companionship with another man who may or may not have the same problem getting to know other people. ☎ 72926

ISO Uncult Urban Cowboy HIV Neg I'm 48 professional, 5'8", brn, blk, 170#, smkr, dmkr, honest, fun, travel, dinner, galking, sports. You-loving, any age, stable, sincere, No Valley reloc! ☎ 71052

"Philipino Men!" I would like to be your steady girlfriend. I am 6' 165lbs. GWM. If you like to be sucked a long time- call me. Don't be lonely anymore. ☎ 71054

"You'll Be Happy To Know Me!" 37, 5'8", brn/blk eyes. Athletic, nice body, versatile. You Latin or White, slim to medium body, versatile. Very open minded, like music, movies, dinner. Under 40yrs. Live in San Francisco and like working out. ☎ 71055

Buddy Wanted 5'11", 198, br, br, 175, top, ISO hot White bottom bubble butts, for get-togethers. 40+, HIV+, no games, n/d, n/d. ☎ 71067

Let's Take Our Time GBM, lean toned & fit 38. You 25-45, fit, versatile, n/d, in-shape. I'm funny, out going. Want more than a quick unsatisfying encounter. HIV- Want sensual romantic type. No kisser need not apply. ☎ 71068

Quiet GWM 54 Seeks Same GWM 54, 5'9", 175lbs seeks GWM 45 to 65 preferably Fremont or So. Bay Area to go to movies, dinner, etc. LTR. ☎ 71069

Good Man With Big Dick Masculine HIV-neg 6'3", 185lbs, gym-toned, mid-50's GWM with beautiful 9 1/2 cock ISO one HIV-negative N/SD muscle bottom for on-going sexual friendship. ☎ 71070

Nice GWM 39yo Prof Seeks LTR Looking for nice mature, sincere GWM 25-40 into outdoor and leisure activities for friendship and possible ltr. Me: avg. looking nice guy likes cooking, wine tasting, camping, music and friends. ☎ 71071

HIV+ BLK 5'9", 165#... Seeking to meet men in the fifty year age range. Attractive to thin or lean build guys only. Looking for fun open to relationships. ☎ 71072

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Ride My Bushy Moustache & feel my tongue up your butt. Me: 6', 165# brn/blk 42. You: hot and ready. ☎ 72859

Versatile Fuckbuddy Wanted 45, 6'2", 195 HIV+ wants fuckbuddy. Vanilla to kinky & SM/leather prefer, fit to husky creative Black, White, Latin men, cut with nipple & jock fetish a plus. ☎ 72860

E/B Versatile White Male Well proportioned, mature, HIV-, 5'7", 150, ISO HIV- versatile males in E/ So Bay. Safe Sex. Your age/ race/ looks/ marital status, not important. Please no games or pagers. ☎ 72862

I Love My Dad/ 5'9"190# 42 GWM Seeking kind, sexy, very hairy daddy-types 40-62 for sincere romance, fun & passion. Love to cuddle and kiss. Must have fun & out going personality. ☎ 72886

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Fist Fucking Hands Video's

Make me copy of any ff video you have, in return, I'll fuck you while viewing. ☎ 72864

"FF Butts Wanted!"

Make me copy of any ff tape. My med hands up your butt for hours BM+ welcome. 5'9", 185. ☎ 72865

Mature GWM ISO Fisting Buddy

Older, in-shape and sleazy versatile fister looking for versatile fisting buddies for regular sessions. Age/race not important. Let's trade fists. ☎ 72881

Filipino Top Wanted

GBM 40 is seeking a Filipino top for fun. Any age. Looks not important. ☎ 72882

Joint Venture

GF seeks GM whom needs a friend. Your European or Asian. Let's talk!! ☎ 72861

Naked Beer Drinking

Need a masculine lean bodied guy to drink beer with as I take care of your oral needs or vice versa. Lean WM 42 likes younger or same age. Hairy a plus. ☎ 72883

"Seniors"

I'm a WM 6' 165lbs. 45yo & I enjoy giving sensual oral pleasure to seniors; one on one or in groups. Kink optional. Bearded, non-buffed, rugged looking A+. No pain, S&M, gay scenes, drugs but smoking ok. ☎ 72884

~Young Boys For Training~

This very cute boy from Europe will under go any type of training you or your friends will decide. Must be in your 20's or 30's. ☎ 72885

35 GAM Seeks GWM

You, 30-42, GWM like bedtime stories. Me: 5'8", 160lbs; like to be bottom call if interested. ☎ 72887

Working Stiff Seeks Massage

Buddy. Would love good, deep tissue rubdown but can't afford it. Want like-minded pal to exchange once or twice 2 week, full body, serious, but fun. ☎ 72888

•On My Knees•

46yr old, HIV+ healthy, 5'8", 160, brbl, g/lee loves to be on my knees giving oral service. My age or older. Muscular, hairy A+ Oakland/ SF. ☎ 72889

Seeking Serious Nipple Workout Buddy

46yr old stocky, 190# bear btm, nip pig with huge erect nips brn/brn, tats, piercing, salt & pepper, goatee, smoker, masc muscular dominant nip-pig "bear daddy" for serious nip workout sessions. ☎ 72890

GWM 45, 5'9" 180 Bn/Bn Clean

Shaven with smooth med bld. avg. masculine looks, wants to meet men for friendship, play, easy going very oral. ☎ 72908

Love to Service Mankind

Handsome, tall, in-shape, 43-yo, bottom loves taking it deep. Seeking dominant top, 30-55, masculine, HIV-, into light SM with affection. Hairy, endowed A+. ☎ 72909

Erotica For You

Latino American hot and handsome looking for a GWM 6 feet and up for some fun and steamy night. ☎ 72910

Strapon Topman

Dildo in harness belt welded by strong mass Oakland WM, 54, 5'8", 175# bald beard for prolonged customizable dominative penetration of younger smaller athlete. No drugs. ☎ 72911

Size Queen Sks Hung Top

GWM, 40ish needs a good workout. ☎ 72912

I Like To Shove My Big Dick...

Down a guy's throat, and I like them to love it. I can go for hours. Can you? Mature, hairy pluses. ☎ 72913

Palo Alto GAM 44, 5'11" Blk-Brn

185 likes giving oral in secluded area within mid Penin. to Santa Clara. Prefer thick members 7in to 9in w/no recip. 3pm-2am. ☎ 72914

Hairy Ex-Marine Daddy

Masculine 6ft, 210 into hot oil erotic free massage, oral service, rimming, shaving for masculine in-shape muscular guys only. 18-40. Just lay back and enjoy! ☎ 72915

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I really like servicing my Mexican friends. W/M, 50, 5'11", 180. Do it your way- often and regulars. Married or single. 30-45. HIV neg. No drugs. ☎ 72916

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With hairy chested GWM, seek similar guys for all-nighters. Let's go at it! ☎ 72917

Jerk You Off?

Want to strip, be tied up & fondled? Have your nipples, balls & hole teased? Tortured? Attractive fit GWM, 40s, 6', HIV- prefers polite muscular boys, 25-50. ☎ 71061

Sexy Guys Wanted By Cock Slut

ISO sexy guys W/B to share my girl slut secrets. Be my part-time nasty boyfriend. Bi/W/M discreet, 31yo 5'10", 185#, att. shaved, into all nite uninhibited partying, love to pose for camera. All male xxx video. ☎ 72927

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Bi curious W/M seeks smooth clean shaven A/W. You /Jo yourself. I like and suck your loose warm balls. You be patient, understanding, submissive. ☎ 72928

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Will be visiting SF March 15-22, hot, horny, Italian, 6', 200#, goatee & mst, very versatile, iv. a msg. Let's get together. S 72929

Asian, 5'7", 135#, ISO Of Fit GWM

For safe play and fantasy sharing and good service. ☎ 71056

Time For Great Sex! ISO Top

For serious oral servicing. I'm handsome, 48, s&p hairy chest. Tall and lean and sexy. UB clean, in-shape, take control guy up for some discrete fun. ☎ 71057

East Bay Cock Sucker Seeking

A local Tool to service. Any age/race. I'm HIV-neg White 6', 160#, 40's. Pom tapes while servicing? Camcord same close up? ☎ 71058

~FF Butts Wanted!~

Make me copy any FF tape. My med hands up your butt for hours in return. ☎ 71059

"Office Sex Slave!"

SWM, Contractor, 44, 6'2", 210lbs. masculine, good build-firm butt, kind, seeks 25-45 submissive, dark hair, hairy slender to well built male to strip, take orders, dress good, ns/nd. ☎ 71060

Explore Your Son/Slave Fantasy

Dad 44, 165, 5'9", goodlooking prof. Exp in beginning training in son slave fantasy. You be 21-35 and curious. I am safe, sane fun and will respect your limits. 71062

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I give long, slow, intense, erotic massages. My table, my hands, my place, your pleasure. No formal training. Bi's and straight+ very discrete, versatile, and safe no reciprocation required. ☎ 71063

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6'/150lbs, smooth bod, beard/stache, bi/blu, 6+ stays hard for you; average looks, mid forties, looking for bottom with eager mouth and butt, good rimmer A+, 55 and under. ☎ 71074

I Love My Dad! 5'9", 190lbs 42

GWM seeks very hairy daddy-types 40-60 for romance and fun. Very oral, affectionate and cute. Must have fun and outgoing personality. ☎ 71064

Santa Rosa Area

Butt fisher 49 in good shape healthy good looking hung uncult, seeks bottoms must be very fit 25-45 tight ass A+. NS/ND call now. ☎ 71073

Handsome Hung Italian

Super endowed 30" seeks another HIV negative extremely well hung man for oral sex. ☎ 71075

Opposites Attract

Big-dick Italian top looking for a small-dick, bubble-butt bottom. Any race under 40. Leave a complete description and best time to call. ☎ 71076

Grind Your Hot Ass In My Face

Rauch lover, in-shape, 34, Oakland, seeks masculine men, 25 to 45, for ass-kicking, cock sucking, fucking, foot worship, more mutual, or I'll service you. ☎ 71077

"Strip Naked!"...

Then let me sensually massage every inch of your lean masculine body, free, fun for fit/hairy or smooth guys, any race from 18 to early 40's by fit WM 43. ☎ 71079

Very Att E Bay Bi 42 Thin DWM

In-shape, smooth, clean & HIV neg. 6'-160lbs versatile- open man seeks a take charge tall, (Blacks a plus) man 35-55 for hot times. ☎ 71080

White Male Only...

Looking to eat your pink ass hole, love sucking nipple too. You be 30/40/50 if older. Let's talk, you can do the same w/me. ☎ 71081

•East Bay•

Appreciative, mature Academic seeks Gay, Straight, Bi, exhibitionist or curious, 25-50 for private encounters at his home. ☎ 71082

Filipino Top Wanted

Goodlooking, healthy GWM, 36, seeks similar Filipino top under 40 for safe, fun times. ☎ 71083

GWM Seeking GLM/GBM 4 Safe Sex

Jewish male, 43, 6', 164#, mouse-like, masculine, slim-build, top and HIV-seeking. Latin/Black guys, bottom, slim-average & HIV- adventures. No drugs and no flakes. ☎ 71084

I Can Be Generous

For passionate daytime sessions (oral and frotage) with tall, hairy, hung/ cut topman. Me? 49, thin-defined body, nice guy. Call me! ☎ 71085

Horse Hung Bottom

Tall, lean, masculine HIV-negative in-shape gym-regular mid-50's GWM with 9 inches, huge tits, solid ass needs in-shape HIV-negative height/weight proportionate ND muscle top, for regular safe fuckings. ☎ 71078

FETISHES**Cowboy Leather Fetish**

Handsome, clean professional man 48 collects cowboy chaps, spurs, custom boots, gloves, hats, vests and seeks men with same fetish for friendship, fun and cowboy games. ☎ 72866

I Get Down And Get Under

Under you I lick, suck and deep French kiss your hot asshole. Take your seat and enjoy. White, brown and yellow recycling. Your place, your way. Quizzes, or prolonged sessions. ☎ 72867

Daytime Asshole-Eater!!

Get your asshole eaten by a pro!! ☎ 72868

6 Spurts? 7/8? Bingo (10)?!!

Great cocksucking means more spurts. Let me show you how great I am. Spurts speak louder than words. Will I make you a 10? ☎ 72869

Magnificent Ass Obsession

Seeking athletes with firm, proud buttocks. Bearded WM, 42, slowly exposes, massages, tongues, gently spansks and probes your quivering, taut ass cheeks. Mirrors. ☎ 72891

Young Slave From Europe

Very cute and obedient. Mediterranean boy into spanking, FF, slave/dog training, etc. Must be in your 20's or 30's only. ☎ 72892

Quench My Thirst!

Looking for guys who want to piss in my mouth. 6'0y, 5'10", 170lbs, in good shape, thirsty. ☎ 72893

My Feb. Birthday Bi Threesome

Me: bi, HM, 53, ISO young bi-men (18-20) only for day time fun, discreet, clean-sober, 69, French, Greek, jack-off!! ☎ 72894

Submissive And Fantasy??

Non-hunk GWM 50's, HIV-, smoker, top fra/p, 6'1", 200#, non-gym, 14ee feet looking for cut GM who can service with loyalty, respect, and touch of fantasy. ☎ 72918

~Thirsty Bootlicker!~

Mature, submissive, respectful foot worshiper has hot tongue, mouth, deep throat to service you. ☎ 72933

Compassionate Cocksucking!!

Thank Pres. W (you yoyo) for your one contribution maybe ever. Hey guys--this is the story that asks the question "Am I your best cocksucker yet?" Answer: yep!! ☎ 72930

Daytime Asshole-Eater!!

Get your asshole eaten by a pro!! ☎ 72931

ISO Foreskin (X-Tight To Loose)

UB W/M L/M A/M. Must be slim! Age/size unimportant but your waist-line is. I'm older W/M, 6', 186lbs. Also deep tongue clean ass-holes. My place. ☎ 72932

Afraid To Look In The Mirror!

Average body guy, fun, loving, wild, kinky bottom seeking a top master who can train my big ass. I'm an attractive large man wanting an owner. Use me hard. Please!! ☎ 71065

Hang & Hoods!

Skinhead bootomper, 28, tats, shaved head wears derby jackets, hoods, skimasks. Looking for tops to "flog" me severely & hang me daily to keep me out of trouble. ☎ 71066

Leather, Lace, S/M, B/D. More...

You are a dominant, demanding man. I am a fit, senior trained for service as a bitch. Available now. Please enquire. ☎ 71086

Daytime Asshole Eater!

Get your asshole eaten by a pro!! ☎ 71087

OTHERS**Man-To-Man Beatings...**

Naked men give and take corporal punishment. Bare-hand, strap, lash etc. Firm discipline administered and accepted. Inquire: ☎ 72870

"Workout Naked!"

Do you have a home, gym or private workout area? Am seeking naked workout partner in 415 or 650. Me: fit WM thirty something seeking good workout. ☎ 72871

GWM Erectile Dysfunction

Attractive, fit, healthy 40 with unreliable erections seeks similar for mutually supportive, non-judgmental hot physical "therapy" sessions. No drama, no strings, no worries. Give a call if interested in pursuing. ☎ 71088

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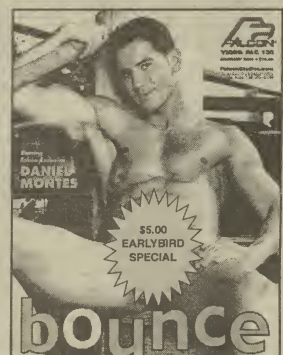
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March madness

by Victoria A. Brownworth

March TV is rife with reruns and midseason replacements. Which explains this week's lead TV stories: Dick Cheney's angioplasty (the sequel), school shootings (also the sequel), and Bill Clinton buying ties in Manhattan for which he spent \$400. It is *déjà vu* all over again — and again.

For those who were in a coma or on Mir during the Starr years, in which all things Clinton became subject to Congressional hearings, the spin-off series has begun — and like most spin-offs, neither cast nor story match the original. Though many believe Bill Clinton is no longer President, Sens. Dan Burton, Arlen Specter and their Republican cronies can't let him go. Even First Lady Laura Bush told *Good Morning America* this week that it was "time to move on and put all this behind us."

Our interest in Bill's taste in ties ended when Monica stopped buying them. Our interest in why he pardoned Marc Rich ended a nanosecond after we heard about it. Republicans promised when Bush was crowned President by the Supreme Court that "our long nightmare" was behind us. Just one more thing they lied about. As former Clinton Secretary of Labor Robert Reich said on *Politically Incorrect* this week, "The pardon hearings are just a distraction from the huge tax cut that will benefit the rich."

After *The Pardons* we watched *The Stent*. Talk about midseason replacements! We're a tad alarmed that Cheney might kick it, since he is the brain of the Bush Administration. Knowing through the miracle of TV all about Cheney's arteries, occluded stent and the high rate at which heart attacks will recur is like *Temptation Island* meets *ER*. If only it were *The West Wing*.

TWW remains the best show — best-written, best-acted, best-paced — on TV. Since the Bush years will be excruciating, tune in to *TWW* — it will imbue you with the idealism to make it to 2004. On *TWW*, for example, gun control gets addressed, which differs dramatically from the Republican government, which insists we must be armed because apparently no-one inside the Beltway knows how to read the Second Amendment, which they think means we get to have our own private arsenals. The true perversion attacking America's youth is it's harder for kids to buy cigarettes than for them to get guns.

Andy Williams and Elizabeth Bush (we recognize it would be in poor taste to make jokes about either teen's name) shot up their schools last week because, once again, each had been bullied unmercifully, and although each cried desperately for help prior to the shootings which left two teens dead and 14 injured, their pleas were ignored by peers and adults alike.

The NRA sent V-P Bill Powers to *Nightline* to reiterate the tired axiom that it's not guns that are the problem. No doubt that will comfort the families of the dead and wounded children.

We would add that every time an adult watches a kid being ver-

bally (and in the case of Williams) physically assaulted and does nothing, he or she bears responsibility for the consequences. Every time a kid retaliates for abuse with a gun, we get a week or two of national hand-wringing. But we don't stop the bullies who push these kids to the breaking point, and we don't stop the guns that give them the only power they can glean over fellow students. Time to wake up and smell the gunpowder. Every TV news and tabloid show addressed this issue after the Santee and Williamsport shootings. But on *This Week*, Attorney General John Ashcroft said the answer would be stiffer penalties for kids who kill. If there were a dangerous intersection killing

and maiming thousands of kids each year (5,000 children are shot each year in the US), we'd put up a stoplight. Guns or lives — you choose.

It's too real

Speaking of right and wrong, reality TV got a little too real on *Survivor* when Michael, one of our faves, ended up with third-degree burns when he fell into the fire. He had to be airlifted from

other queer player, Jennifer, was so acutely annoying.

The Mole is looking for new contestants for those who might want to travel the globe with Anderson Cooper. *The Mole* is no *Survivor*: wits are essential as is physical prowess, but there's no roughing it, no bug-eating, no nights spent in torrential rainstorms, no burns. To try out, log on to www.abc.com and click onto the *Mole* website.

We also recommend clicking for the new CBS sitcom *Some of My Best Friends* — clicking the remote to another network. We can just imagine the production meeting for this one. "NBC gets through-the-roof ratings with *Will & Grace*. Maybe we could do a similar show — but make *Grace* a guy! You know, a straight guy who like sounds like he's, y'know, from Brooklyn. But hunky. And he's roomies with this gay guy who acts straight but has a really flaming friend, just like *Will's* friend Jack. Only we'll make this guy Asian because we have hardly any people of color on the whole network. And the gay guy will have a hottie sister — you know, like Karen on *Will & Grace*. This show is going to be a real hit. You know — like *Bette*."

Danny Nucci as Frankie (yo!) the straight guy, Jason Bateman as Warren (Warren?) the gay guy, Alec Mapa as Vern (an Asian named

time castmember Innes and newcomer Mitchell.

We also found *ER's* tale of two gay men — one positive, one negative — compelling and sadly realistic as it dealt with the controversial issue of "sharing the gift" (intentionally passing HIV from positive partner to negative). In even acknowledging this issue, *ER* once again sensitively tackles provocative topics without giving pat answers or even happy endings.

Another round of kudos to *Gideon's Crossing*, where Ruben

Blades (Dr. Cabanes) stole the show this week with a mesmerizing performance as Cabanes struggled to help a patient with multiple personality disorder. The patient was raped by his father as a child — punishment for bad behavior. *GC* writers have taken on other sexual orientation issues, including the best show on transsexuals we've ever seen. Sensitive and subtle writing pointed out the clear distinction between abusive pedophilia and gay sexuality. A refreshing change from the norm. ▼



Lavender Tube

On 'This Week,' Attorney General John Ashcroft said the answer to school shootings would be stiffer penalties for kids who kill. If there were a dangerous intersection killing and maiming thousands of kids each year (5,000 kids are shot each year in the US), we'd put up a stoplight. Guns or lives — you choose.

the Outback. PETA may say this incident was karmic payback for his killing of a pig several weeks ago, but we were acutely disturbed that the camera crew continued to film but failed to intervene as Michael was badly injured. They filmed him as he was overcome by smoke while cooking, filmed him as he passed out into the fire, filmed him as he fell screaming onto the ground, filmed him as he ran screaming into the river to soothe the flesh hanging from his hands like bacon strips.

The decision to air scenes which included close-ups of the skin faying from Michael's hands seems questionable. We were horrified to witness such calculated brutality by the show's producers. *Survivor* remains America's top-rated TV show, but caveat emptor — not everyone may have the stomach for this much reality.

Nothing so dramatic occurred as *The Mole* flitted about the globe with host Anderson Cooper (the oh-so-queerish former anchor of *World News Now* and son of Gloria Vanderbilt). Last week brought the finale and the big surprise that Kathryn, not gay boy Jim or his buddy Steven, was the mole. The Unholy Trinity as they were termed by other players were stellar, and we were pleased to see Jim flaming through the show right to the end. Particularly since the

Vern?) the flamer, and Jessica Lundy as Meryl (where did they get these names?), the sister. The cast is good, especially Mapa and Lundy (just like Jack and Karen on *W&G*), but the writing sucks.

Go kiss

The fabulous kissing scene on *Buffy, the Vampire Slayer* between lesbian lovers Willow (Alison Hannigan) and Tara (Amber Benson) was the best, most realistic and longest we've seen on TV or even in the movies. Sensual, sweet and, unlike every other queer kissing scene, *not hyped*. Kudos to Joss Whedon for not only creating a believable queer couple but allowing them to be queer on camera, naturally, just like the show's het couples.

Kudos, too, to *ER* for the complex tale of Carrie (Laura Innes) and Kim (Elizabeth Mitchell). Newbie lesbian Carrie fears losing her job, and lifelong lesbian Kim fights homophobia on all fronts, particularly now that she's been charged with sexual harassment by a young suicidal client with sexual orientation issues. We've seen the two women in bed together where Carrie clearly has deep feelings for Kim, but Kim is impatient with Carrie's desire to keep their relationship in the closet. Realistic and believable, with stellar performances from long-

Kiss us Jason

Bateman plays gay on his new sitcom

by Gregg Shapiro

Jason Bateman, the star of the gay-themed sitcom *Some of My Best Friends*, is all grown up and looking very handsome. Bateman plays Warren, whose roommate ad is answered by Frankie (Danny Nucci), a sweet but simple straight guy who is initially ignorant of the fact that Warren is gay. Frankie thinks that GWM stands for "Guy With Money." Based on the popular gay movie *Kiss Me Guido*, the sitcom version is the latest queer half-hour on network television, and it marks Bateman's return to the fore.

Gregg Shapiro: Would you consider yourself a fan of the movie *Kiss Me Guido*?

Jason Bateman: I asked them if I should see it before I read for this thing, and they said no, it wasn't necessary. My preference was not to see it, because what if I saw the guy who was playing my part do something really good here or there, and I sort of, on purpose or not, stole it? I'm prone to thievery, Gregg.

After having shot seven episodes, have you had a change of heart and watched the movie?

No. Not yet.

Have you ever had a gay roommate?

I had a guy who was my best friend. People basically said that we were living together because he was over there all the time. Then we had a big falling out. Only later did he end up coming out of the closet. So I don't know what jurisdiction that would fall under. In retrospect, I had a pseudo-gay, pseudo-roommate.

Do you have a preference for comedy over drama?

I'm in love with comedy, and sitcoms in particular. I've really got an affinity for that genre and how sneaky tough it is. I enjoy the performing and the collaboration with the audience. Yet, I've noticed in my life, to be perfectly frank, that if I go a long time without doing some drama, without doing some acting, I tend to create it in my life. I tend to exaggerate arguments with my friends and my girlfriend and my parents and whomever. I really argue my point through the mud, the sleet and the snow. I've been told by my friends, "All right. I get it. I got it. You win." Only in retrospect have I sort of figured that maybe this is me loving to hear myself talk, and maybe I need to get myself a fuckin' job.

So there's a little bit of drama queen in you.

Yeah, I guess so.

One of the complaints about the show *Will & Grace* is that Will never has any long-lasting romantic relationships. Are there plans for your character, Warren, to date or become romantically involved?

Yes, there are plans to go into Warren's personal life and bring Danny's character into that as well, and see how he can cope. But with any sitcom, if you hook somebody up with a steady, the stories are somewhat limited. You get a lot more out of allowing your regular characters to go out and date many different people. I could date a guy who was really neurotic, versus dating a guy who is an overly self-centered rodeo star. You can do anything.

Sandy Duncan, with whom you worked on the sitcom *The Hogan Family*, has a large following in the gay community. Do you think that she might be persuaded to appear on your show?

I would like to think that it would take absolutely no persuading whatsoever. We're crazy about each other. I miss her daily, and I think it's a pretty safe bet that she would say the same thing about me. We'd probably have to be careful. She'd want to be a semi-regular.

Any chance that your sister, Justine, will be making a guest appearance on *Some of My Best Friends*?

I don't think so. She's retired from acting. She's now very involved in running a clothing line that she's developed. She's hand-knitting hats and shawls, dresses, sweaters and gloves. She's really got no interest in acting. She just got married, and she's really digging not being a part of the machinery anymore. ▼

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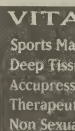
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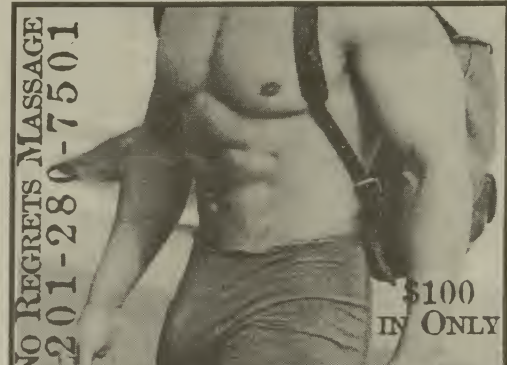
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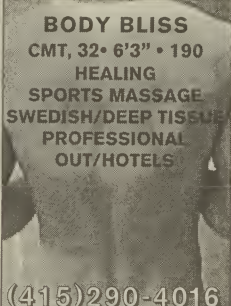
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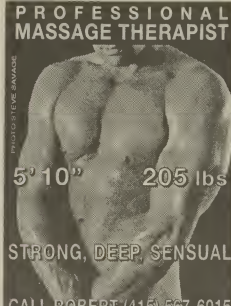
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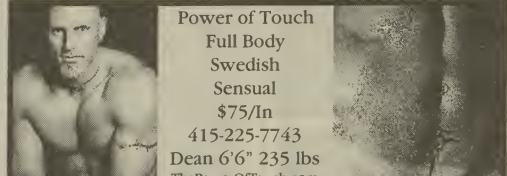


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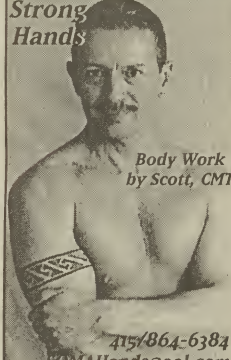
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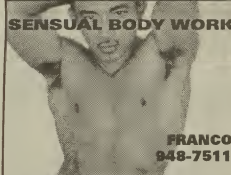
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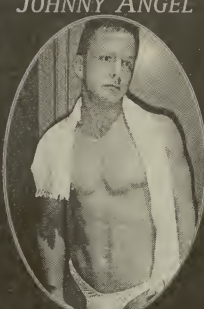


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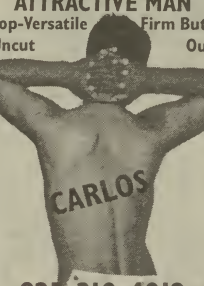
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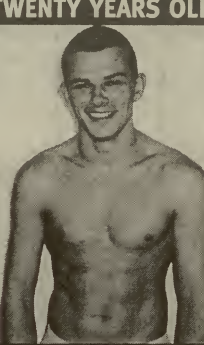
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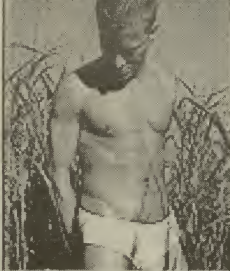
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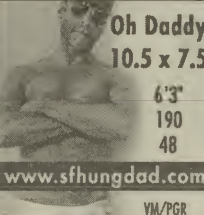
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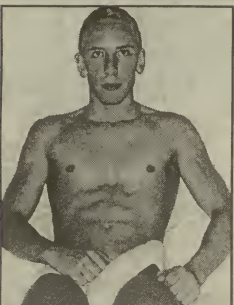
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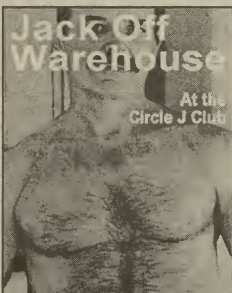


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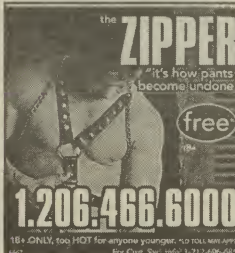
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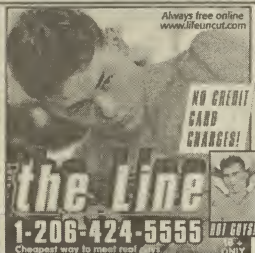


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18+*MC*V*AE*D*CHECKS

Good Head in Sonoma County.
Call Days 707-823-3895

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Experienced, Safe: 504-7776
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Use Access Code 3954

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Stephen Scott & Lynette Hadlock
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Mr and Ms. South Plains Leather
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Sat., Mar. 3 and good luck at the
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Daytime Deep Throat Service
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within your reach

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Listen & Respond to personal ads! 18+
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talk 1-1 or interactive menu for
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TALK*SEX*PERSONALS
LTHR*FETISH*S/M*KINK
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BAY AREA REPORTER

CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

Indicate
Type Style
Here ▼

X-BOLD Stops Here ▼

BOLD Stops Here ▼

CAPS Stop Here ▼

Regular Stops Here ▼

DEADLINE

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Payment must accompany ad.
No ads taken over the
telephone. If you have a
question, call 415.861.5019.
Display advertising rates
available upon request.

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First line, Regular 4.50
All subsequent lines 3.00
CAPS double price
BOLD double price
X-BOLD triple price

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☐ Personal Check
☐ Money Order
☐ Visa
☐ MasterCard
☐ American Express

Minimum \$10 charge.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Card Number

Expiration Date

Signature

Name

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name

Telephone

Address

City

State

Zip

Number of Issues

Classification

Amount Enclosed

**MAIL WITH
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SF, CA 94103
OR FAX TO:
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OR E-MAIL:
baradv@aol.com

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